

# **COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN UTAH**



Avocets/Phalaropes – Great Salt Lake, Utah (Don Paul)

**Prepare by  
Utah Steering Committee  
Intermountain West Joint Venture**

**2005**

## **Utah Steering Committee**

### **Intermountain West Joint Venture**

Wayne Martinsen, National Audubon Society (Chair)  
Don Paul, Great Basin BCR Coordinator  
Jeff McCreary, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.  
Frank Howe, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Tom Aldrich, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Jim Parrish, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Randy Berger, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources  
Rod Player, USDA Forest Service  
Steve Hedges, Bureau of Land Management  
Tammy Wallace, Bureau of Land Management  
Joel Tuey, The Nature Conservancy  
Damian Fagan, The Nature Conservancy

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## **1. Introduction**

In 1986, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) was adopted by the United States and Canada to address the conservation and restoration of waterfowl, other migratory waterbirds, and the habitats on which they depend. The Plan aims to restore waterfowl populations to 1970-79 levels and establishes specific population objectives for twenty-five species of ducks and five species of geese, plus trumpeter and tundra swans. It was updated in 1994 to include full participation by Mexico, and again in 1998 to include language strongly encouraging Plan partners to improve coordination with other wildlife initiatives, including those directed at other migratory birds, endangered species, fisheries and biodiversity. It was updated again in 2003.

Six public-private partnerships, or joint ventures, were originally established by the Plan to coordinate the implementation of NAWMP and achievement of population and habitat objectives along flyway lines across North America, with eight more joint ventures having been formed in recent years. These joint venture partnerships include active participation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA) and other federal agencies, as well as state wildlife management agencies and a number of wildlife conservation groups, including Ducks Unlimited Inc., Pheasants Forever, The Nature Conservancy, and the National Audubon Society. Congress established the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) in 1989 to implement the objectives of NAWMP. This program, re-authorized by Congress in 2002 at \$75 million/year by 2007, encourages and rewards partnerships among all wildlife conservation initiatives through two matching grant programs, a standard grant program and a small grant program.

The Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) was established in 1994 as the eleventh habitat joint venture. It encompasses parts of eleven Western states, including all of Utah. Public agencies and conservation groups work as partners through an IWJV State Steering Committee in Utah to identify, protect, restore and enhance wetlands and other important habitats for waterfowl and other migratory birds, as well as native resident birds such as sage grouse.

The Utah State Steering Committee includes representatives from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA), Ducks Unlimited Inc, National Audubon Society, and The Nature Conservancy of Utah. The group started meeting in 1994 as Utah State Action Group, primarily a wetlands and waterfowl group, but moved to an all-bird focus and became the Utah Steering Committee in 2001. The group is a statewide forum for the discussion and implementation of projects to identify, protect and restore key wetlands and associated upland habitats.

In 1995 the IWJV Management Board adopted an Implementation Plan, which was intended to provide a framework for implementing the NAWMP in Utah and other states of the Intermountain West, and for developing more specific wetland focus area plans in each of those states. The Utah State Action Group defined the following eight waterbird and wetland focus areas, which were incorporated into the larger IWJV Implementation Plan, adopted in December 1995: Bear River, Great Salt Lake, Utah Lake, Montane Wetlands, Uinta Basin, West Desert, Sevier River, and Colorado River. Focus area plans were completed for Great Salt Lake, Utah Lake and Colorado River Focus Areas. Plans for the other five focus areas are in various stages of development. Waterfowl objectives were established for the Intermountain West and for Utah by the IWJV Management Board. These focus areas and objectives were incorporated into the larger IWJV Implementation Plan in 1995.

Waterfowl objectives were established for the Intermountain West and for Utah by the IWJV Management Board, and are included in the IWJV's 1996 Implementation Plan.

In 2001, the IWJV Management Board determined that the 1995 IWJV Implementation Plan should be updated, as a Strategic Plan, and that it should be rewritten from the ground up, state-by-state. The Board also decided that this updated planning process should attempt to coordinate NAWMP and joint venture objectives with other bird initiatives operating within the Intermountain West region. That same year, the Board funded a project to work with state steering committees in developing coordinated "all bird" implementation plans for all the states of the Intermountain West Joint Venture. The Utah Steering Committee has met on a number of occasions in 2001, 2002 and 2003 to develop a state implementation plan.

The coordinated "all bird" implementation plan for Utah not only contributes to an updated and expanded overall IWJV Implementation Plan, but will also assist the IWJV Management Board in considering and ranking various habitat protection, restoration and enhancement projects for funding via the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and other programs.

## **2. Planning Objectives for Utah**

- a. Create a planning forum, through the Utah Steering Committee of the IWJV in which representatives of state and federal conservation agencies and wildlife conservation groups work collaboratively to develop coordinated habitat goals, objectives and projects that address the conservation needs of all bird species in Utah.
- b. Review, merge and synthesize the habitat goals and objectives of existing bird conservation plans into a coordinated planning document that reflects the habitat priorities of all bird conservation programs in Utah. This document is intended to guide the Management Board of the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV), as well as IWJV partners, in updating and implementing habitat goals and objectives for future bird conservation in Utah.

## **3. Direction and Connections**

By taking a lead role in coordinated implementation planning in the Western states, the IWJV Management Board is following the direction of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP-1998/2003 Updates). IWJV is also responding to direction and recommendations from other national sources and programs to attempt coordination of waterfowl and wetland habitat planning with the identified goals of other bird conservation programs. These other national sources and programs include:

**North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI):** NABCI was formed in 1998 as an international forum for public and private interests to coordinate international conservation efforts of existing major migratory bird initiatives. One goal of NABCI is to increase the effectiveness of, and coordination between, existing and new bird conservation initiatives, including the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. As a recommended framework for coordinated bird management, NABCI has adopted and mapped ecological units called Bird Conservation Regions (BCR), a number of which cover the area of the Intermountain West Joint Venture. Utah is covered by four BCRs. The Great Basin BCR (BCR 9) covers most of western Utah to the crest of the Wasatch Front. Most of the rest of the

state is within the Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau BCR (BCR 16). A small part of the southwest corner of Utah is within the Sonoran and Mojave Desert BCR (BCR 33), and an even smaller part of the state is within the Northern Rockies BCR (BCR 10). Coordinators have been hired in 2001 and 2002 for the Great Basin and Northern Rockies BCRs; a big part of their responsibilities will be working with IWJV partners to coordinate planning and project design for bird habitat projects in Utah and other states within those BCRs. As the “all bird” planning process moves forward, the BCRs defined by NABCI (see **Figure 1**) will likely become the standard ecological regions/divisions for migratory bird planning and management.

**International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies:** The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) was founded in 1902 as a quasi-governmental organization of public agencies, including state wildlife agencies charged with the protection and management of North America’s fish and wildlife resources. The IAFWA received a federal grant in FY/2001 to conduct “integrated all bird” conservation planning workshops for state wildlife agencies in FY/2001-2002. Since the national objectives of this grant closely parallel the IWJV’s coordinated migratory bird planning effort, the IWJV is working with IAFWA staff to ensure that the workshops are complementary. Workshops were conducted in Colorado and Arizona in 2002, in Boise, Idaho, in March 2003, and in Billings, Montana in August 2003.

**Congress:** The US Congress strongly supports a public-private partnership approach to protecting and restoring wetlands and other important migratory bird habitats across North America, and they have signaled their support by increasing the federal funds available for migratory bird initiatives. In FY/2001, Congress re-authorized the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and increased its authorized annual funding level from \$30 million to \$50 million. It was reauthorized again in FY/2002 at \$75 million per year. Appropriations for NAWCA continue to grow since the authorization level was increased. Congress also recommended a phased-in approach to fully funding the 15 habitat and species joint ventures that were in place in FY/2001, making it clear in budget language that Congress regards these joint ventures as a future primary delivery system for all federally-funded migratory bird programs. In its FY/2002 Interior Appropriations language, the House noted that the joint venture program “continues to be one of the greatest successes of the (Fish and Wildlife) Service, with funding leveraged to a greater extent than all other Service programs combined”.

**Executive Order 13186 – Protection of Migratory Birds:** In January 2001 outgoing President Bill Clinton signed an executive order requiring all federal agencies which might have a measurable negative impact on migratory birds to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to promote the recommendations of NAWMP, NABCI and other migratory bird programs, as well as other conservation considerations. The Bureau of Land Management and USDA Forest Service developed a draft MOU with the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2001, which emphasizes a collaborative approach to migratory bird conservation, in cooperation with other agencies and organizations. Because this executive order addresses the integration of bird conservation principles, habitat restoration for migratory birds, and comprehensive planning among various bird conservation programs, these coordinated implementation plans developed by the IWJV should assist these federal agencies with implementation of the MOU. Other federal agencies will presumably also develop MOUs with the Fish and Wildlife Service to implement Executive Order 13186. This presidential Executive Order was reinforced by the Bush Administration on September 12, 2002 when U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Steve Williams issued **Director’s Order No. 146**, which indicates, among other things, that joint ventures should deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation.

**Other Mandates and Programs:** In 2002, Congress passed a new Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (H.R.2217), funding the new Act with an initial \$3 million for a matching grants program; funding for this new program has continued and grown since FY/2003. Congress also created a new State Wildlife Grant program, which provides funding to state wildlife agencies for wildlife planning and conservation. Conservation grants are predicated on development of Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies, which must be completed by October 2005. The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is taking steps to complete this overall strategy by the due date in 2005.

#### **4. Migratory Bird Conservation Initiatives**

There are four migratory bird initiatives for which national, regional and state plans have been or are being developed. Although the following programs have different but compatible approaches to planning for bird conservation, the goals, objectives, and priorities of each will be considered in the IWJV Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in Utah:

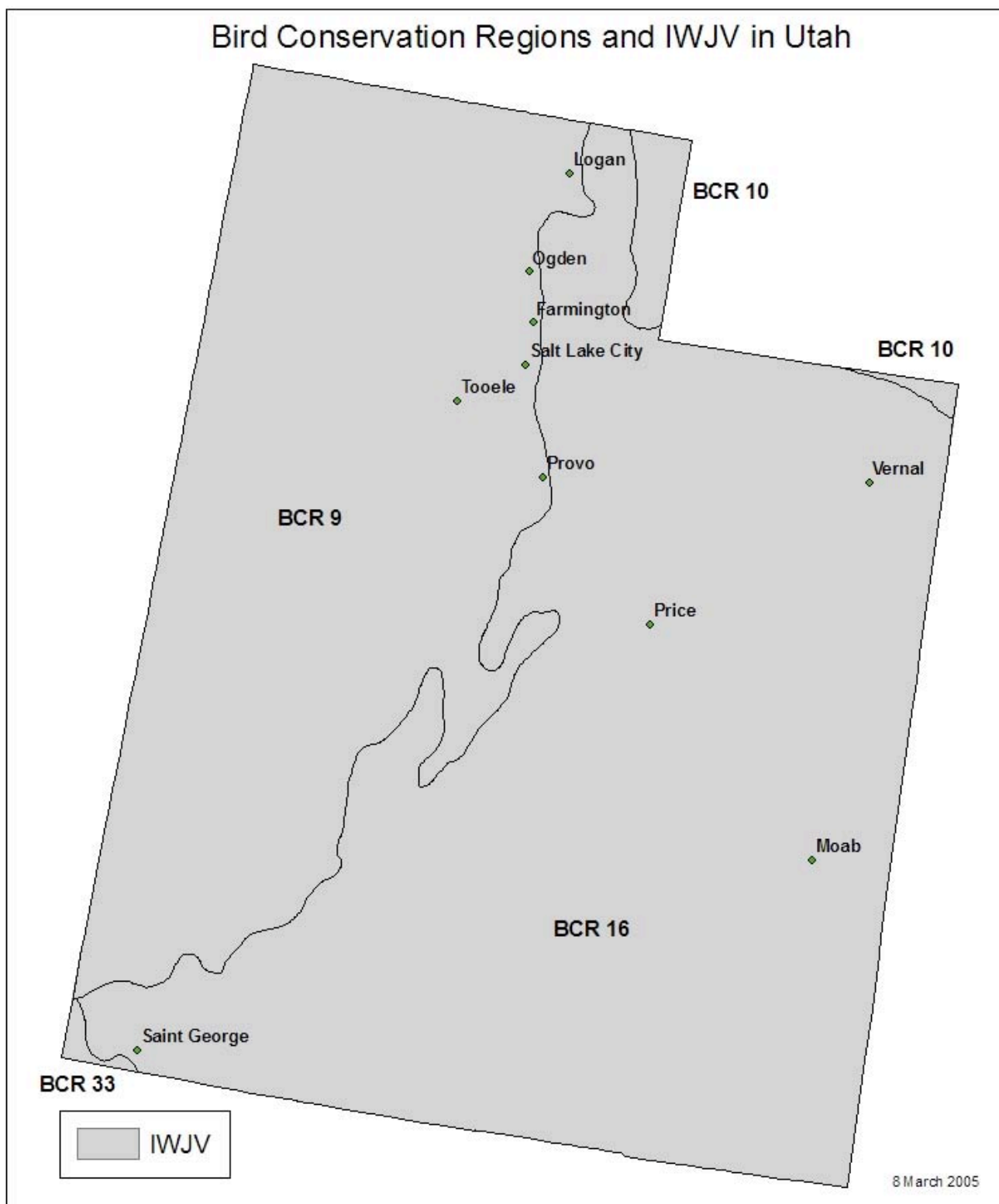
**North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP):** Adopted by the United States and Canada in 1986, and by Mexico in 1994, to address the conservation and restoration of waterfowl, other migratory waterbirds, and the habitats on which they depend. The Plan, as adopted, aims to restore waterfowl populations to 1970-79 levels and establishes specific population objectives for twenty-five species of ducks, five species of geese, plus trumpeter and tundra swans.

The Intermountain West Joint is one of eleven public-private partnerships established to coordinate the implementation of NAWMP and the achievement of population and habitat objectives along flyway lines across North America. Public agencies and conservation groups work as partners through an IWJV State Steering Committee in Utah to identify, protect, restore and enhance wetlands and other important habitats for waterfowl and other migratory birds, as well as native non-migratory birds such as sage grouse.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has prioritized 18 species of waterfowl found in Utah for at least part of their life cycle. These species, grouped into Priority 1, 2, and 3 categories, are listed in **Table One**.

**Partners in Flight (PIF):** The national PIF program began in 1989 as a coordinated effort to document and reverse apparent declines in the populations of neotropical migratory birds that breed north of Mexico and then migrate to Mexico, Central, South America and the Caribbean in the winter months. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation took the lead in bringing together federal, state, and local government agencies, foundations, conservation groups, industry and the academic community to address the problem of population declines. The reasons are complex, and include loss of breeding habitat due to fragmentation, alteration, urban expansion and natural disasters; loss or alteration of habitat in non-breeding areas and along migratory routes; and brood parasitism. The PIF program was later expanded to include all non-game land birds.

**Figure 1 – Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in Utah**





Today PIF is an international program, with eastern and western regional coordinators and PIF working groups in each state. In 2000, the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) published the first comprehensive national plan for the program, titled *Partners in Flight: Conservation of the Land Birds of the United States*. This plan summarizes the goals and priorities of the various state Bird Conservation Plans, as well as 93 physiographic areas and seven generalized regions of the continental United States. The plan also encourages better coordination with other initiatives such as the NAWMP, U.S. Shorebird Management Plan, and the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan. PIF initially divided Utah into three physiographic areas, but for purposes of coordinated bird conservation, these have now been replaced by the BCRs described on page 4. Passage of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act in 2001 provided a new federal funding program and commitment to neotropical migrant species addressed by Partners in Flight. In September 2003, Partners in Flight released a new North American Landbird Conservation Plan.

The Utah Working Group of Partners in Flight was formed in 1993 to focus resources of PIF partners on the improvement of monitoring, research, management and education programs involving native, nongame landbirds and their habitats. The working group is organized into five working committees made up of professionals from state and federal natural resource agencies, universities, and nongovernmental organizations, including many of the same agencies and organizations as the IWJV steering committee: Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Forest Service (USDA), Department of Defense, National Park Service, Utah Reclamation and Mitigation Conservation Commission, National Audubon Society, and Snow College.

In December 2002, the Utah Working Group released the Utah Avian Conservation Strategy (UTACS), Version 2.0, which assessed the status of 231 species of breeding birds in Utah, excluding waterfowl, and identified 24 species of Utah landbirds for conservation efforts. These 24 priority species utilize 18 habitats within the state, in four established physiographic regions and 15 major habitat types. This draft plan, which articulated population objectives for some of those 24 priority species and their related habitats, was completed in 1999 and updated in 2002. It remains the best summary of species and associated habitat information for neotropical migrant birds and other native non-game landbirds of Utah, and is one of the main sources of information used in developing a coordinated conservation plan for Utah birds. This document may be found at <http://www.wildlife.utah/publications>.

Priority species identified by Partners in Flight in the UTACS are listed and ranked in **Table One** of this planning document. Ranking criteria included Relative Abundance, Breeding Distribution, Winter Distribution, Threats in Breeding Range, Threats-Non-breeding, Importance of Area, Population Trend, and Population Trend Uncertainty. Species are listed again in **Appendix A**, within the 18 associated habitat groups identified in UTACS. This document may be found at <http://www.partnersinflight.org/>.

**U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP):** The term shorebird is applied in North America to a large group of birds commonly called sandpipers and plovers, but also includes oystercatchers, avocets, and stilts. Of 214 species of shorebirds found worldwide, 53 regularly occur in the United States and, although they are found at some time of the year in all 50 states, the biology and ecology of most shorebird species is poorly understood. Technical and regional working groups were convened to address some of the known conservation and research issues for shorebirds and in 2000, the *U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan* was published by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, funded by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This national plan provides baseline information on

shorebird populations and habitat, and addresses some of the known challenges to shorebird conservation, including low reproductive potential and habitat loss. It also articulates hemispheric and national goals for restoring and stabilizing shorebird populations, especially those known to be in decline. These goals emphasize research, monitoring and cooperative landscape management strategies at the international, national, and regional levels. As with NABCI and the Partners In Flight plan, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan encourages close coordination with other bird conservation initiatives, as well as implementation of shorebird conservation strategies through the Intermountain West Joint Venture and other habitat joint ventures established by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The shorebird plan defines Shorebird Planning Regions across North America, which follow the lines of NABCI Bird Conservation Regions. All of Utah is within the shorebird plan's Intermountain West Shorebird Planning Region.

An *Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan* (IWRSP) was also released as a draft in 2000. The plan notes that perhaps a million shorebirds breed in the Intermountain West and that millions more migrate through the area each year. The plan recognizes that finding ample high quality fresh water will be the greatest challenge faced by shorebirds in the Intermountain West. The regional plan articulates seven goals and associated objectives and strategies related to habitat management, monitoring and assessment, research, outreach and planning. The planning goal includes objectives to coordinate shorebird planning and projects with other migratory bird initiatives and specifically with the Intermountain West Joint Venture. The Intermountain West plan identifies eleven species of shorebirds that regularly breed in the region, as well as 23 additional species that are annual migrants. The Intermountain West plan also recognizes eleven Key Shorebird Areas, one of which, Great Salt Lake, is in Utah.

Eighteen priority shorebird species in Utah are listed and ranked in **Table One**; those with a score of 1 are ranked Critically Important; those with a score of 2 are ranked Very Important; those with a score of 3 are ranked Important. Great Salt Lake is classified as an International Site under the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN). The Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan, when completed, will provide the primary source of information for shorebird species and habitat objectives for the coordinated implementation plan for bird conservation in Utah. Shorebird species and other priority bird species are shown within their associated critical habitats in **Appendix A**. A revised version of the Intermountain West Plan was released in March, 2004.

**North American Waterbird Conservation Plan (NAWCP):** The NAWCP provides a continental framework for conserving and managing colonial nesting waterbirds, including 209 species of seabirds, coastal waterbirds (gulls, terns, pelicans), wading birds (herons, ibises), and marsh birds, such as certain grebes and bitterns. The overall goal of the plan is to ensure that the distribution, diversity and abundance of populations, habitats (breeding, migratory, and non-breeding) and important sites of waterbirds are sustained or restored throughout their ranges in North America. The geographic scope of the plan covers 28 countries, from Canada to Panama, as well as islands and nearshore areas of the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. As with NAWMP and Partners in Flight, the waterbird partnership includes federal, state and provincial wildlife agencies, individuals, and nonprofit conservation organizations.

Also, as with PIF and other migratory bird plans, this plan includes a goal to establish conservation action and exchange information and expertise with other bird conservation initiatives, especially NABCI and the habitat joint ventures established by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan,

including IWJV. The plan also calls for establishment of Practical Units for Planning (PUPs) for terrestrial habitats; Utah falls within the Intermountain West/Southwest Desert PUP.

Volume One of the North American plan covers 165 species of colonial-nesting birds, as well as three grebes that nest semi-colonially. Volume Two will cover 44 species of marsh birds. On October 23, 2001, a second draft of Volume One was released for review. In this draft plan, the conservation status of all North American waterbird species was evaluated, adapting the protocol from Partners in Flight and the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan. Under this classification system, a number of species found in Utah as breeders or migrants fall into the Species of Moderate Concern or Species of Low Concern categories for North America, Northern Hemisphere, Western Hemisphere, and Cosmopolitan (world-wide) including the American White Pelican, California Gull, White-faced Ibis, Western Grebe, Clark's Grebe, and Green Heron. A number of other species, including the Great Blue Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, Forster's Tern, Ring-billed Gull, and Great Egret, are found in Utah but classified as Species Not at Risk in North America. The status of these species in Utah may of course be more or less threatened than their global, hemispheric, or continental status.

In December 2001 the process was initiated for developing a regional waterbird conservation plan for the Intermountain West/Southwest Desert Practical Planning Unit. A first draft was released in August 2002. When this regional plan is completed, it will articulate conservation and management goals and objectives for waterbirds in Utah and other states of the Intermountain West Joint Venture, as well as identify and describe habitat types and locations of important waterbird habitat in Utah and other Western states. It will hopefully be the primary source of information for waterbird species and habitat objectives for this Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in Utah. Draft species priorities for the Intermountain West Waterbird Plan (June, 2004) are shown in **Table One**.

## **5. Other Bird Conservation Programs:**

In addition to the four migratory bird initiative described above, there are a number of other important bird conservation programs which will be reviewed, considered and included in a Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in Utah. These include:

**Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program:** The IBA Program is an international, site-based approach to bird conservation that began in Europe in the mid-1980s, when BirdLife International sponsored a continent-wide inventory of key sites for birds. The effort spread to the United States, and in the mid-1990s the American Bird Conservancy and National Audubon Society completed a pilot project to identify and describe the Important Bird Areas of Pennsylvania. As of the summer of 2001, 43 states had IBA programs, including three states that have published guides to their IBAs.

The IBA program recognizes that there are places on the landscape that provide exceptionally valuable or essential habitat for one or more species of birds, including breeding, wintering or migratory habitat. Identifying, recognizing, monitoring, and stewarding these sites can form the basis of a landscape-level conservation network, not just for birds but also for other species of wildlife.

The Utah IBA Program was initiated in December 2001 and a Technical Committee was immediately formed to establish state-specific criteria and a nomination form for Utah IBA sites that is based primarily on the World Bird Database, managed by National Audubon Society in the United States. A

State Steering Committee will also be formed to help in other efforts associated with the IBA program such as overseeing monitoring and conservation efforts at selected IBA sites.

The selection process for IBAs examines sites based on the presence, species assemblage, and abundance of birds and the condition and quality of the habitat. The Site Nomination Criteria for the Utah IBA program are shown as **Appendix A**. Site nominations are accepted on an on-going basis. Five IBA sites were announced in May 2002 and more sites will be announced in the future. For additional information go to: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/utah>

The Utah Important Bird Area Program, when completed, will provide an important component of a coordinated landbird, waterfowl, shorebird and waterbird implementation plan for the state. After identifying the best and most important habitats for birds in Utah, the IBA Program plans to establish long-term monitoring programs for each IBA. The monitoring program is based on the coordinated efforts of volunteer citizen scientists and agency and NGO biologists. Monitoring of each IBA will develop a database to track population trends at each site, and in the long-term, help identify large-scale trends in bird populations. The IBA program will also work with landowners to develop stewardship plans to guide the management of IBAs for the long-term benefit of wildlife. IBA status will help land management agencies and conservation organizations set conservation priorities and solicit funding and support at the national level for local programs.

**Ecoregional Conservation Planning:** The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has adopted ecoregion-based planning as the most effective way to achieve its national mission of preserving a diversity of plants, animals, and natural communities. The planning process used by TNC follows a methodology outlined in their publication, *Geography of Hope* (2000), which defines a vision of conservation success at an ecoregional scale, and is based on documenting and mapping a list or “portfolio” of biologically outstanding sites that represent a full complement of ecosystems, natural communities, and species characteristics of the ecoregion. This methodology may be used to direct TNC programs and influence other conservation efforts across the United States. The ecoregional plans are based on amended ecoregional units delineated by Bailey et al (1998).

Utah falls within seven of The Nature Conservancy’s ecoregions. The Great Basin ecoregion in Utah goes from the western border with Nevada to the crest of the Wasatch Mountains. The Colorado Plateau Ecoregion covers most of the southeastern part of the state, and the Utah High Plateaus ecoregion arcs across the middle of the state from southwest to northeast. The other ecoregions, Columbia Plateau, Utah-Wyoming Rocky Mountains, Wyoming Basin, and Mojave Desert, fill in the rest of the map for Utah. The Nature Conservancy of Utah is developing the Colorado Plateau and Utah High Plateaus ecoregional assessments. Lead responsibility for the other ecoregional assessments was assumed by Nature Conservancy chapters in Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Nevada, and California.

Although TNC’s ecoregional assessments are not specifically bird conservation plans, they do identify and classify those habitat types, areas, and sites, which provide important habitat for birds. Birds identified as conservation targets for the seven ecoregions are linked to the portfolio sites in those ecoregional plans. Target Bird Species, listed by The Nature Conservancy for each ecological system group, were obtained from the literature and from interviews with acknowledged experts. Target bird species from three of the ecoregional plans are listed in **Table One**; target species from the other four plans will be added at a later date.

**Range-wide Sage Grouse Conservation Project:** The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2000 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to develop a strategy for the conservation of sage grouse throughout their range. In 2001 the State of Utah and WAFWA received a federal grant to aid sagebrush/sage grouse conservation efforts in six or seven Western states and British Columbia. In 2002 a project coordinator was hired with the grant funds and he began coordinating the completion of statewide and province-wide sage grouse databases, including medium-to-fine-scale distribution maps of sage grouse habitat. The project is overseen by a federal-state National Sage Grouse Conservation Framework Team. Plans have been released for Gunnison Sage Grouse and Greater Sage-grouse.

**Essential Habitats Program:** The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) completed a statewide program in 2001 to identify and map important wetlands and other wildlife habitat on non-federal and state lands in Utah. The program was set up to help local planners and decision-makers but may also be used to help identify priorities and potential partners for IWJV habitat projects. The database is not specific for birds, although critical bird habitat can be extracted. This database will be utilized in the overall effort to identify and map critical bird habitat for the IWJV in Utah.

**Endangered Species Act:** The Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, mandates the protection of threatened and endangered species of plants and animals and the development of a recovery plan for each species. In Utah, there are a number of birds listed as Endangered (E), Threatened (T), Proposed Threatened (PT) or Candidate (C) species under the ESA, including the Southwestern willow flycatcher, Yellow-billed cuckoo, and Bald eagle. The Mountain Plover and Sage Grouse have also been petitioned for listing. Due to their legal status under the ESA, these listed and petitioned species are automatically included in any list of priority bird species for the IWJV in Utah, even though independent measures are being taken under the ESA to recover their populations.

## **6. Priority Bird Species in Utah**

Many of the bird conservation programs described above, including the federal Endangered Species Act and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan/IWJV, have developed, or will develop as part of their overall planning process, a list of priority bird species, species of concern, or target species, either for Utah or the entire Intermountain West region. The State of Utah maintains a Sensitive Species List for wildlife, which includes State Endangered Species, State Threatened Species, and Species of Special Concern. Both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Forest Service maintain “species of concern” lists, which include bird species which could become candidates for listing. The Utah Steering Committee has reviewed these lists, including target bird species listed in TNC’s Ecoregional Conservation Plans, and they have combined and indexed these priority species in **Table One** and **Appendix B**.

## **7. Priority Habitat Types**

The Utah Steering Committee ranked 24 major habitat types, including those in the 2000 *Utah Bird Conservation Plan*, into three categories of priority, A, B and C, defined below. Three criteria were used to rank these habitat types: 1) Statewide importance to birds; 2) Degree of threat; and 3) Opportunities (funding, partnerships, and feasibility for habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement. The three categories were defined as:

- Priority A: High threat, high opportunity, and high value to birds statewide  
Priority B: One criterion may be high, but generally the habitat is of moderate concern  
Priority C: Relatively low threat, low opportunity, and low value as habitat statewide

The ranked list of 24 major bird habitats developed by the Utah Steering Committee is shown as **Table Two**.

## **8. Bird Species-Habitat Relationships**

The Utah Avian Conservation Strategy (UTACS) has identified and described 18 habitat types in Utah, within four habitat groups, which together provide critical habitat for the state's 24 Partners in Flight priority species. Five additional habitat types are identified in UTACS, including Agriculture and Water, and the Utah Steering Committee established another one by splitting oak into northern and desert oak. The habitat types ranked in **Table Two** are shown again in **Appendix C**, and indexed to the priority bird species from **Appendix A**.

## **9. Bird Habitat Conservation Areas for Utah**

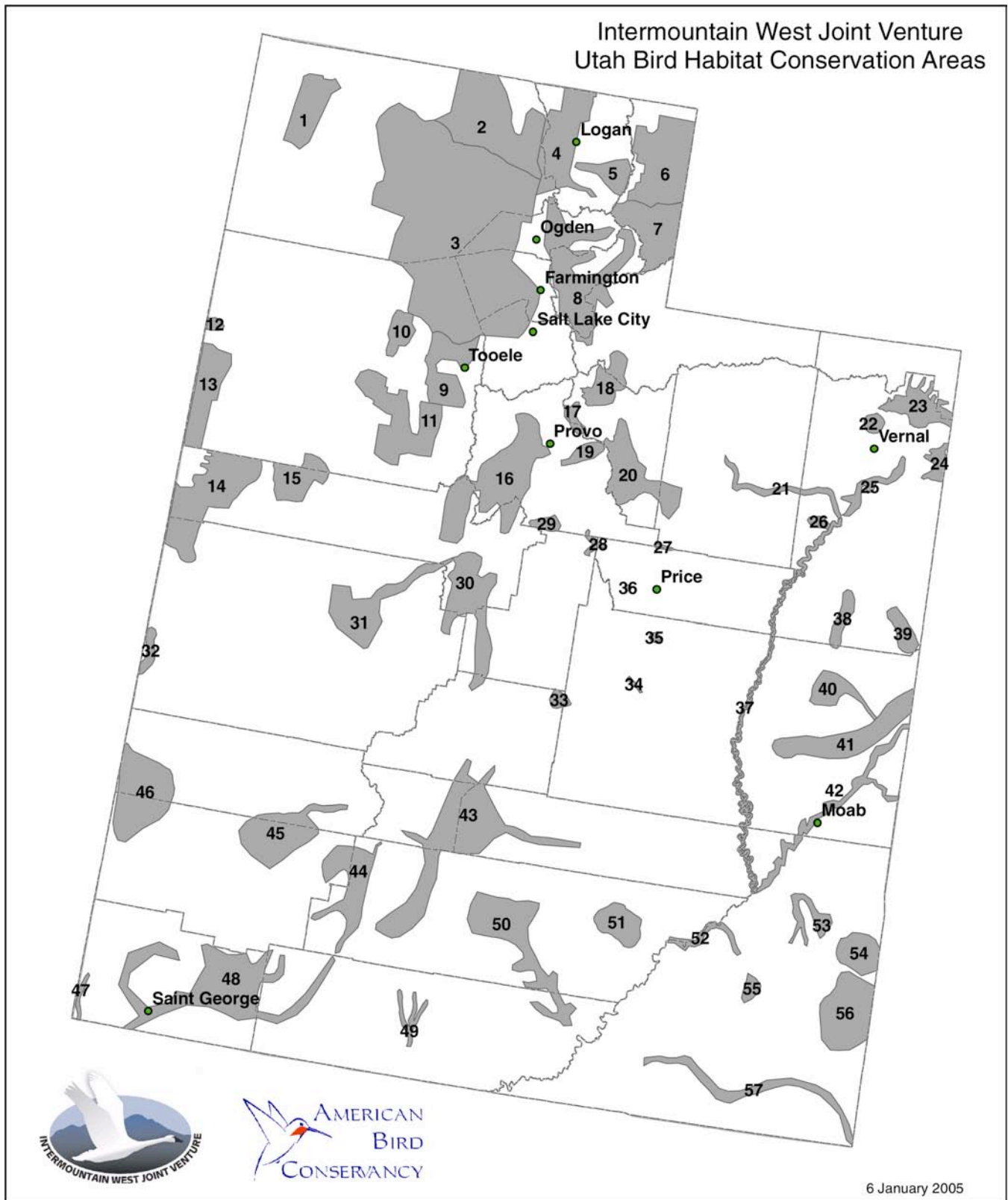
In February 2003 the Utah Steering Committee met in Provo and began the process of reviewing existing conservation maps and lists of priority habitats in Utah. Included were Wetland Focus Areas such as Great Salt Lake, already delineated by the Steering Committee, IBA maps, sage grouse habitat maps, and ecoregional maps from The Nature Conservancy. Regional subcommittees were then convened in five administrative regions of Utah, and these subcommittees identified, mapped and described Bird Habitat Conservation Areas (BHCA) in each region. These BHCAs were combined into one statewide list, by region, as **Table Three**. Detailed write-ups of each BHCA are also included as **Appendix E**.

It must be understood that Bird Habitat Conservation Areas are intended to display areas where bird habitat conservation projects may take place, where state partners believe the best opportunity exists for effective conservation activities. However, the BHCAs have no official status. In the case of all of these units (private or public) BHCA designation simply notes where conservation activities could occur. Such action would, of course, be predicated on concurrence, collaboration and cooperation with all landowners involved.

## **10. Landscape Mapping**

The following digital map depicts the Bird Habitat Conservation Areas as delineated by the Utah Steering Committee and also listed in **Table Three**.

Figure 2 - Bird Habitat Conservation Areas (BHCAs) for Utah



## **11. Habitat Goals and Objectives**

In August, 2004, IWJV Steering Committee chairs from 11 Western states met with IWJV staff in Salt Lake City for two days to develop draft goals and objectives for the Priority A and B habitats listed in each state plan. Criteria were agreed upon for goals and objectives and each steering committee chair was asked to meet with his/her state steering committee by October, 2004 to finalize these goals and objectives. These collective goals and objectives will also provide the basis for overall IWJV habitat objectives included in the updated IWJV Strategic Plan. Priority A habitats for Utah are as follows:

### **Priority A Habitats**

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#### **Sagebrush Steppe**

Sagebrush steppe habitats in Utah are expansive and are priorities in 22 of 57 the state's Bird Habitat Conservation Areas (BHCA). The majority of this habitat type is in public ownership hence conservation actions should primarily consist of restoration and enhancement. These actions should occur on 1.58 million acres that are considered high-priority

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#### **Lowland Riparian**

Riparian habitats are some of the most imperiled within the Intermountain West. Lowland riparian habitats are of prime importance to neotropical migratory song birds and cavity nesting birds. Conservation actions for this habitat type should protect existing riparian corridors to prevent additional losses. Restoration and enhancement activities should be undertaken on existing stands and in those areas that historically had this habitat type but currently do not or where it is in poor condition. These actions should occur on 43,035 acres.

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#### **Mountain Riparian**

This riparian habitat is often over shadowed by conservation concerns of the large gallery riparian forests at lower elevations. However, many passerines and waterfowl are reliant on this habitat type for breeding and migration corridors. Conservation actions for this habitat type should protect existing riparian corridors to prevent additional losses. Enhancement activities should be undertaken on existing stands and restoration in those areas that historically had this habitat type but currently do not. These actions should occur on 12,773 acres.

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#### **Wet Meadow**

Wet meadow habitats are found throughout Utah. The two main issues threatening this habitat type are conversion to urban areas and over grazing. Conservation measures should include protecting and restoring existing areas as well as restoring disturbed areas. These actions should occur on 36,000 acres

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#### **Playa**

Important playa areas are found primarily in northern Utah. The main issue threatening this habitat types is alteration of hydroperiod. Restoring proper hydrologic conditions is the main conservation measure that should be undertaken for this habitat type. This action should occur on 126,200 acres.



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### **Wetland**

Important wetland habitats have been identified primarily in northern and central Utah. This habitat type is threatened by conversion to uplands, reduced water inputs, and degraded water quality. Conservation actions should include protection and restoration of existing areas as well as restoration and enhancement of degraded areas. These actions should take place on 440,450 acres.

**TABLE ONE**

**PRIORITY SPECIES FROM BIRD CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

**North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) and the  
Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV)**  
(20 species/subspecies in Utah, prioritized 1-3)

Cinnamon Teal	Ruddy Duck (GSL)	Wood Duck
Mallard	Northern Pintail	American Wigeon
Lesser Scaup	Northern Shoveler	Canvasback
Redhead	Ring-necked Duck	Tundra Swan
Trumpeter Swan	Canada Goose (RMP)	Lesser Snow Goose
Gadwall	Green-winged Teal	Blue-winged Teal

**Partners in Flight Utah Avian Conservation Strategy (UTACS)**  
(24 Priority Species)

Lewis' Woodpecker	Bell's Vireo	Gray Vireo
Abert's Towhee	Black Rosy-finch	Ferruginous Hawk
American Avocet	Long-billed Curlew	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Bobolink	Sharp-tailed Grouse	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Mountain Plover	Brewer's Sparrow	Virginia's Warbler
Lucy's Warbler	Black Swift	Three-toed Woodpecker
Sage Grouse	Black-necked Stilt	Sage Sparrow
American White Pelican	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Gambel's Quail

**U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan and  
Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan**  
(20 species; bolded are priority species)

Snowy Plover	Long-billed Dowitcher	Killdeer
Long-billed Curlew	Black-bellied Plover	American Avocet
Black-necked Stilt	Solitary Sandpiper	Greater Yellowlegs
Spotted Sandpiper	Mountain Plover	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Marbled Godwit	Western Sandpiper	Least Sandpiper
Willet	Common Snipe	Wilson's Phalarope
Red-necked Phalarope	Upland Sandpiper	

**North American Waterbird Conservation Plan**  
(NA-North America; WH-Western Hemisphere; C-Cosmopolitan)

Am. White Pelican (NA)	California Gull (NA)	Western Grebe (NA)
Clark's Grebe (NA)	White-faced Ibis (WH)	Snowy Egret (WH)
Franklin's Gull (WH)	Black-crowned Night Heron (C)	Black Tern (C)
Caspian Tern (C)	Common Tern (C)	

**Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan**  
**Bird Conservation Regions (BCR) 9 and 10**  
**(Draft Species Priorities – High (H) and Moderate (M) Concern)**

Great Sandhill Crane (H)	Lesser Sandhill Crane (H-9)	Franklin's Gull (H)
Yellow Rail (H-9)	Forster's Tern (H-10/M-9)	Black Tern (H)
Eared Grebe (staging) (H-9)	American White Pelican (H)	Common Loon (H)
Western Grebe (H-9/M-10)	Snowy Egret (H-9/M-10)	Black-crowned Night-Heron (M-9)
Least Bittern (M-9)	White-faced Ibis (M)	California Gull (M-10)
Caspian Tern (M-10)	Clarke's Grebe (M-10)	American Bittern (M-10)
Common Tern (M-10)		

**Great Basin Ecoregional Conservation Blueprint (TNC)**  
(37 species)

Cooper's Hawk	Northern Goshawk	Sage Sparrow
Redhead	Juniper Titmouse	Ferruginous Hawk
Swainson's Hawk	Sage Grouse	Snowy Plover
Northern Harrier	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	SW Willow Flycatcher
Gray Flycatcher	Prairie Falcon	Peregrine Falcon
Greater Sandhill Crane	Blue Grosbeak	Pinyon Jay
Yellow-breasted Chat	Least Bittern	Loggerhead Shrike
California Gull	Franklin's Gull	Black Rosy-finch
Lewis' Woodpecker	Long-billed Curlew	Sage Thrasher
Flammulated Owl	American White Pelican	Wilson's Phalarope
White-faced Ibis	Eared Grebe	American Avocet
Brewer's Sparrow	Calliope Hummingbird	Virginia's Warbler

**Utah High Plateaus Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)**  
(37 species) T-Target species

Am. peregrine Falcon (T)	Bald Eagle (T)	Band-tailed Pigeon (T)
Black Swift (T)	Burrowing Owl (T)	California Condor (T)
Ferruginous Hawk (T)	Sage Grouse (T)	Lewis' Woodpecker (T)
MacGillivray's Warbler (T)	Mexican Spotted owl (T)	Northern Goshawk (T)
Rap-naped Sapsucker (T)	Sage thrasher (T)	SW Willow Flycatcher (T)
Willow Flycatcher (full) (T)	Yellow-billed Cuckoo (T)	American Avocet
American Dipper	Bell's Vireo	Black rosy Finch
Black-necked Stilt	Black-throated Gray Warbler	Bobolink
Brewer's Sparrow	Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Sharp-tailed Grouse
Flammulated Owl	Grace's Warbler	Gray Flycatcher
Gray Vireo	Greater Sandhill Crane	Juniper Titmouse
Loggerhead Shrike	Long-billed Curlew	Lucy's Warbler
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Pinyon Jay	Purple Martin
Pygmy Nuthatch	Sage Sparrow	Saw-whet Owl
Swainson's Hawk	Three-toed Woodpecker	Virginia's Warbler
Williamson's Sapsucker	Yellow-breasted Chat	Fox Sparrow

**Colorado Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)**  
(29 species)

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Black Swift	American Dipper	Broad-tailed Hummingbird
Cordilleran Flycatcher	MacGillivray's Warbler	Gray Vireo
Willow Flycatcher	Juniper Titmouse	Pinyon Jay
BT gray Warbler	Gray Flycatcher	Burrowing Owl
Red-naped Sapsucker	Sage Grouse	Brewer's Sparrow
Loggerhead Shrike	Sage Thrasher	Purple Martin
Sage Sparrow	Lewis' Woodpecker	Band-tailed Pigeon
Western Bluebird	Pygmy Nuthatch	Mexican Spotted owl
Flammulated Owl	Williamson's Sapsucker	Grace's Warbler
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Northern Goshawk	

**Utah/Wyoming Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)**  
(43 species)

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Snowy Plover	Great Gray Owl	Forster's Tern
Bald Eagle	Peregrine Falcon	Virginia's Warbler
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Osprey	Three-toed Woodpecker
Sage Sparrow	Northern Goshawk	Western Grebe
Common Goldeneye	Cattle Egret	Bufflehead
Lesser Goldfinch	Barrow's Goldeneye	Lark Bunting
Trumpeter Swan	Mountain Plover	Black Tern
Common Loon	Snowy Egret	Whooping Crane
Sandhill Crane	Northern Pygmy Owl	White-winged Crossbill
Harlequin Duck	Pinyon Jay	Black-crowned Night Heron
Lewis's Woodpecker	Franklin's Gull	Eared Grebe
Flammulated Owl	Long-billed Curlew	Caspian Tern
American White Pelican	Western Screech Owl	Gray Vireo
White-faced Ibis	Black-backed Woodpecker	
Common Grackle	Horned Grebe	

**Mojave Desert Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)**  
(28 species)

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Tricolored Blackbird	Golden Eagle	Ferruginous Hawk
Long-eared Owl	Burrowing Owl	Northern Harrier
Costa's Hummingbird	Lawrence's Goldfinch	SW Willow Flycatcher
W. Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Yellow Warbler	Yellow-breasted Chat
Peregrine Falcon	Blue Grosbeak	Loggerhead Shrike
Scott's Oriole	Least Bittern	Summer Tanager
Phainopepla	Abert's Towhee	Bendire's Thrasher
Vermillion Flycatcher	Mexican Spotted Owl	Gray Vireo
Crissal Thrasher	LeConte's Thrasher	
Bell's Vireo	Short-eared Owl	

**Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)**

(24 species)

Grasshopper Sparrow	Northern Goshawk	Sage Sparrow
Black-throated Sparrow	Sage-grouse	Ferruginous Hawk
Black Tern	Trumpeter Swan	Western Snowy Plover
Bobolink	Snowy Egret	Peregrine Falcon
Bald Eagle	Loggerhead Shrike	Franklin's Gull

**Wyoming Basins Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)**

(9 Rare Bird Species)

Mountain Plover	American White Pelican	Peregrine Falcon
Bald Eagle	Ferruginous Hawk	Burrowing Owl
Sage Grouse	Virginia's Warbler	Whooping Crane

**Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)**

(4 species)

SW Willow Flycatcher (E)	Yellow-billed Cuckoo (C)
Bald Eagle (T)	Mountain Plover (PT)

**Species of Concern – USDA Forest Service**

(7 species)

Northern Goshawk	Flammulated Owl
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse	Three-toed Woodpecker
Boreal Owl	Great Gray Owl
Peregrine Falcon	

**State of Utah Sensitive Species List (1998)**

(23 bird species/subspecies in Utah in two categories)

SP: substantial decrease in population, distribution, habitat availability

SD: occurs in limited areas due to restricted or specialized habitat

Northern Goshawk (SP)	Swainson's Hawk (SP)	Caspian Tern (SP)
Black Tern (SP)	Burrowing Owl (SP)	Common Yellowthroat (SP)
Short-eared Owl (SP)	American White Pelican (SD)	California Condor (SD)
Osprey (SD)	Sharp-tailed Grouse (SD)	Williamson's Sapsucker (SD)
Three-toed Woodpecker (SD)	Sage Grouse (SP/SD)	Mountain Plover (SP/SD)
Long-billed Curlew (SP/SD)	Black Swift (SP/SD)	Lewis' Woodpecker (SP/SD)
Crissal Thrasher (SP/SD)	Bell's Vireo (SP/SD)	Grasshopper Sparrow (SP/SD)
Blue Grosbeak (SP/SD)	Bobolink (SP/SD)	

## TABLE TWO

### PRIORITIZATION OF 24 MAJOR BIRD HABITATS IN UTAH

#### **Priority A Habitats:**

High overall rating: high to medium value to birds, high to medium threat, high to medium opportunity for protection, restoration, and or enhancement of habitat.

Lowland Riparian: (Described in UTACS)  
Mountain Riparian: (Described in UTACS)  
Wetlands and Associated Uplands: (Described in UTACS)  
Shrub-Steppe: (Described in UTACS)  
Wet Meadow: (Described in UTACS)  
Playa: (Described in UTACS)

#### **Priority B Habitats:**

Medium overall rating: one criterion may be high (habitat value, threat, opportunity) but generally of medium importance to birds statewide.

Low Desert Scrub (Described in UTACS)  
High Desert Scrub (Described in UTACS)  
Mixed Conifer: (Described in UTACS)  
Pinyon-Juniper: (Described in UTACS)  
Sub-Alpine Conifer: (Description from UTACS)  
Aspen: (Described in UTACS)  
Mountain Shrub: (Described in UTACS)  
Water: (Described in UTACS)  
Agriculture: (Described in UTACS)

#### **Priority C Habitats:**

Low overall rating: low to medium relative habitat value, threat, and/or opportunity statewide.

Alpine: (Described in UTACS)  
Ponderosa Pine: (Described in UTACS)  
Grassland: (Described in UTACS)  
Northern Oak: (Described in UTACS)  
Desert Oak: (Described in UTACS)  
Lodgepole Pine: (Described in UTACS)  
Rock: (Described in UTACS)  
Cliff: (Described in UTACS)  
Urban: (Described in UTACS)

\* Original source of information: Utah Partners in Flight *Utah Avian Conservation Strategy (UTACS)* (2002); additions made by Utah Steering Committee of IWJV.

**TABLE THREE**

**BIRD HABITAT CONSERVATION AREAS (BHCAs) IN UTAH**

**Northern Region**

1. Dove Creek
2. Blue Creek Valley
3. Great Salt Lake
4. Cache Valley
5. Blacksmith Fork
6. North Rich
7. South Rich
8. Ogden / Weber River

**Northeast Region**

21. Duchesne River
22. Red Mountain
23. Diamond Mountain
24. Blue Mountain
25. Upper Green River
26. Pariette Wetlands
38. Willow Creek
39. Bitter Creek (and associated canyon habitat)

**Southeast Region**

37. Green River
41. Cisco Desert
42. Colorado & Delores River
52. Indian Creek and Fable Valley  
(includes Hart Canyon & North Cottonwood)
53. Hart Draw 54. East Canyon / Sage Flat
55. South Elk Ridge
56. Montezuma Canyon
57. San Juan River

27. Summerhouse Spring
28. Upper Fish Creek
33. The Pines
34. San Rafael River bottoms  
(includes Fuller, Hambrick, and Frenchman bottoms)
35. Desert Lake
36. Emma Park
40. Cottonwood and Willow Creeks
51. Henry Mountains

**Southern Region**

31. Delta
32. Pruess Lake
43. Parker Mountain
44. Panguitch Valley
45. Bald Hills
46. Hamlin Valley
47. Beaver Dam Wash
48. Virgin River
49. Paria River
50. Escalante River

**Central Region**

9. Rush Valley / Tooele Valley
10. Skull Valley
11. Horseshoe Springs
12. Blue Lake
13. Deep Creek Range
14. Snake Valley
15. Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge
16. Utah Lake / Mona Lake / Tintic Valley
17. Bridal Veil Falls / Stewarts Falls / Aspen Grove Areas
18. Upper Heber Valley / Jordanelle-Upper Provo River
19. Upper and Lower Hobbie Creek Drainage
20. Strawberry Reservoir Watershed
29. Lower Nebo Creek Drainage
30. Sevier Bridge / Chicken Creek Reservoirs  
(combine with SRO Delta area)

**APPENDIX A - SITE NOMINATION CRITERIA FOR UTAH IBAS**  
**Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program in Utah**

May 2002

**Definitions**

An Important Bird Area (IBA) is a site providing essential habitat to one or more species of breeding or non-breeding birds. Sites are usually discrete and distinguishable in character, habitat, or ornithological importance from surrounding areas. Boundaries may be natural, such as watersheds, or man-made, such as roads and property boundaries. There is no pre-determined size for an IBA, but wherever possible an IBA should be large enough to encompass the resources that are significant to the birds throughout the season for which they are important. Not all IBAs can or will meet this last definition--bottlenecks or migration corridors for raptors being one example.

**Criteria**

A Site meeting any one of the criteria in the following four categories may qualify as an IBA. Many sites will meet several criteria. These criteria should not be considered absolutely binding, and other factors, such as relative importance to other sites, may be weighed in making final site selections.

1. Category UT 1: Sites important to endangered, threatened or sensitive species in Utah

*Description:* Sites that regularly support breeding or non-breeding densities (wintering and migratory sites) of one or more of the following species listed as endangered, threatened, or sensitive species in the state of Utah. Sites should be those where the species occurs or potentially occurs with some regularity, not areas of infrequent occurrence. Thresholds (i.e., percent of state population) will vary due to the lack of population data for many species in Utah. In other cases the species naturally occurs in low density due to its position on the food chain or foraging guild.

**State Endangered Species**

American Peregrine Falcon  
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

**State Threatened Species**

Bald Eagle  
Ferruginous Hawk  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo  
Mexican Spotted Owl

**State Sensitive Species**

Due to declining populations

Northern Goshawk  
Swainson's Hawk  
Caspian Tern  
Black Tern  
Burrowing Owl  
Common Yellow Throat  
Short-eared Owl

Due to limited distribution

American White Pelican  
California Condor  
Osprey  
Sharp-tailed Grouse  
Williamson's Sapsucker  
Three-toed Woodpecker



Due to declining populations and limited distribution

Sage Grouse	Mountain Plover
Long-billed Curlew	Black Swift
Lewis' Woodpecker	Crissal Thrasher
Bell's Vireo	Blue Grosbeak
Grasshopper Sparrow	Bobolink

2. Category UT 2: Utah Partners in Flight Priority Species

*Description:* Sites that regularly support breeding or non-breeding densities of the following species identified as priority species in the Utah Partners in Flight Avian Conservation Strategy. Thresholds will vary, but may include sites with 25 or more breeding pairs. May also include sites with a significant complement of species with a totaling of 50 or more breeding pairs of up to three listed species or 100 breeding pairs of any number of listed species.

Utah Partners in Flight Priority Species

Lewis' Woodpecker	Albert's Towhee
American Avocet	Mountain Plover
Lucy's Warbler	Sage Grouse
American White Pelican	Bobolink
Virginia's Warbler	Gray Vireo
Bell's Vireo	Black Rosy-Finch
Long-billed Curlew	Sharp-tailed Grouse
Brewer's Sparrow	Black Swift
Black-necked Stilt	Broad-tailed Hummingbird
Ferruginous Hawk	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Grasshopper Sparrow
Three-toed Woodpecker	Sage Sparrow
Gamble's Quail	

3. Category UT 3: Habitat Supporting Important Bird Species

*Description:* Sites that contain rare or unique habitat within the state/region or an exceptional representative of a natural habitat, and that hold important species or species assemblages largely restricted to a distinctive habitat type.

This category is intended to cover relatively large areas capable of supporting substantial bird populations, especially of species with particular habitat requirements. Examples of such habitats are saline environments in close association with emergent marshes harboring populations of avocets and stilts or a complex of productive sage grouse leeks. Small remnants of an exceptional habitat type may be included, however. Selection of sites will be based on avian assemblages with the habitat community type, not on the habitat community type alone. Characteristic species of birds and other wildlife indicative of the habitat type should be identified and, if possible, quantified.

Below is a table that lists Utah Partners in Flight habitat categories, the total number of bird species found in each habitat category and the number of Partners in Flight priority species that utilize these habitats. This information indicates the types of habitats that are most important for the approximately 231 species of birds, excluding waterfowl that breed in Utah on a regular basis. Additional information can be found in the [Utah Partners in Flight Avian Conservation Strategy](#). If you have questions or would like additional information about this Strategy please contact Jim Parrish, Utah Partners in Flight Coordinator, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, (801) 538-4788, or [jimparrish@utah.gov](mailto:jimparrish@utah.gov).

<u>UT PIF Habitat Category</u>	<u>Total Species</u>	<u>UT PIF Priority Species</u>
Lowland Riparian	98	9
Mountain Riparian	46	1
Wetlands	33	3
Wet Meadow	12	1
Shrubsteppe	8	3
Mountain Shrub	16	5
High Desert Scrub	29	5
Low Desert Scrub	25	1
Northern Oak (Gambel's)	4	1
Desert Oak (Gambel hybrids)	1	0
Grassland	11	2
Alpine	5	1
Sub-Alpine Conifer	21	1
Mixed Conifer	21	0
Ponderosa Pine	13	1
Lodgepole Pine	2	1
Pinyon-Juniper	21	3
Aspen	19	0
Water	19	1
Rock	3	0
Playa	7	2
Agriculture	26	5
Urban	9	0

4. Category UT 4: Avian Congregations

*Description:* Sites where significant numbers of birds concentrate for breeding, migration, or over-wintering.

Sites that regularly hold substantial numbers of one or more species; breeding or non-breeding including migration; and including sites supporting a high diversity of bird species. Significant numbers are subjectively defined, but could include 1 percent or more of the state's population. The guidelines indicated below provide some logical thresholds for site selection. Except where indicated, numerical estimates should be based on a short period of time, such as one-time counts on daily surveys, not on cumulative totals.

- a. Congregations of waterfowl: The site regularly supports at least 2,000 breeding/wintering waterfowl or 5,000 migrating waterfowl. "Waterfowl" includes such birds as loons, grebes, ducks, coots, and moorhens.
- b. Congregations of gulls or terns: The site supports at least 5,000 or more gulls at sites around the Great Salt Lake or 500 gulls at other sites in Utah or 50 terns over a short period of time during any season. For breeding pairs, the site regularly supports at least 200 pairs of California gulls or 50 pairs of Franklin or other gulls or 25 pairs of terns.
- c. Congregations of shorebirds: The site regularly supports 2,000 or more shorebirds at sites around the Great Salt Lake or 500 shorebirds at other sites in Utah. For breeding pairs, the site regularly supports 50 pairs of shorebirds.
- d. Congregations of raptors: The site is a migratory corridor for at least 1,000 raptors (seasonal total) during spring or fall migration, or is a winter concentration area used by at least 100 raptors. The area may include topographic features that funnel birds through a particular site.
- e. Concentrations of wading birds: The site regularly supports 100 or more pairs of wading birds (herons, egrets, and ibises).
- f. Congregations of migratory land birds: The site is an important migratory stopover, bottleneck, or migratory corridor. Sites should contain exceptional numbers and/or diversity. No threshold in numbers is set.
- g. Single species concentrations: The site regularly supports significant concentrations of a congregatory species but may not meet the thresholds for specific groups of birds listed in criteria 4a-4f above. Such sites should support a higher proportion of a species counted on a statewide basis than other comparable areas. Examples of this condition are waterfowl in molt migration, post-breeding congregations of pinyon jays, and significant concentrations of wintering land birds i.e., rosy-finch.

5. Supportive Criteria:

The following two criteria may be used to supplement or support a site nomination. By themselves, they are insufficient to warrant the designation of a site in Utah as an IBA. In addition to the two criteria described below, you are encouraged to list other outstanding resources that characterize the site you are nominating (see nomination form).

- a. Sites supporting long-term avian research efforts. Sites protected under this criterion should be a natural area where a long-term avian research project is based. Past or on-going research at the site should have contributed substantially to ornithology, avian ecology, or bird conservation. Publication of relevant findings in a widely recognized, peer-reviewed journal (e.g., Utah Birds, Great Basin Naturalist, Western Birds, Journal of Field Ornithology, Condor, and Southwestern Naturalist) is one of the primary considerations. Breeding Bird Survey blocks and Christmas Bird Count routes, while important within the context of their own programs, will not qualify an area as an IBA.

b. Sites providing important, bird-specific educational opportunities. Sites supporting educational programs in which a significant component of the program content focuses on avian ecology, bird identification, biodiversity, or the value of high-quality habitat for birds. Sites may be in a natural, urban, suburban, or rural setting, but should retain significant natural habitat. Sites where educational programs are being developed will also be considered, as will sites where habitat restoration is a significant management goal.

Further Information:

If you require further assistance or need to obtain the nomination form that should accompany these criteria, please contact the IBA Program at the addresses below or check the Utah IBA website at [www.audubon.org/bird/iba/utah](http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/utah). You may also wish to check the Audubon website for general information about the IBA program at [www.audubon.org/bird/iba](http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba).

For general information about the Utah IBA program, nominating a site, nomination forms, criteria, etc., please contact:

Wayne Martinson, Utah Important Bird Area Coordinator,  
National Audubon Society  
549 Cortez Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84103  
(801) 355-8110  
[wmartinson@audubon.org](mailto:wmartinson@audubon.org)

For detailed and specific questions about the criteria and the nomination of a particular site please contact:

Val Grant, Chair of Utah IBA Technical Team,  
President, Bridgerland Audubon Society,  
Wildlife Biologist, Bio-Resources, Inc.  
135 East Center, Logan, Utah 84321  
(435) 753-5370  
[biores@mtwest.net](mailto:biores@mtwest.net)

**APPENDIX B – PRIORITY BIRD SPECIES OF UTAH FROM BIRD CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**

Species	North American Waterfowl Mgmt Plan (NAWMP) and the IWJV	Partners in Flight Utah Avian Conservation Strategy (UTACS)	US Shorebird Conservation Plan and Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Great Basin Ecoregional Conservation Blueprint (TNC)	Utah High Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Colorado Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Utah / Wyoming Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Mojave Desert Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Wyoming Basins Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Species of Concern – USDA Forest Service	State of Utah sensitive Species List (1998)
Abert's Towhee		X							X					
American Avocet		X	X		X	X								
American Dipper						X	X							
American White Pelican		X		X	X			X			X			X
American Wigeon	X													
Bald Eagle						X		X		X	X	X		
Band-tailed Pigeon						X	X							
Barrow's Goldeneye								X						
Bells' Vireo		X				X			X					X
Bendire's Thrasher									X					
Black Tern				X				X		X				X
Black-backed Woodpecker								X						
Black-bellied Plover			X											
Black-crowned Night-Heron				X				X						
Black-necked Stilt		X	X			X								
Black Rosy-Finch		X			X	X								
Black Swift		X				X	X							X
Black-throated Gray Warbler		X				X	X							
Black-throated Sparrow										X				
Blue Grosbeak					X				X					X
Blue-winged Teal	X													
Bobolink		X				X				X				X
Boreal Owl													X	
Brewer's Sparrow		X			X	X	X							
Broad-tailed Hummingbird		X				X	X							
Bufflehead								X						
Burrowing Owl						X	X		X		X			X
California Condor						X								X
California Gull				X	X									
Calliope Hummingbird					X									

**COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN UTAH**

<b>Species</b>	North American Waterfowl Mgmt Plan (NAWMP) and the IWJV	Partners in Flight Utah Avian Conservation Strategy (UTACS)	US Shorebird Conservation Plan and Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Great Basin Ecoregional Conservation Blueprint (TNC)	Utah High Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Colorado Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Utah / Wyoming Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Mojave Desert Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Wyoming Basins Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Species of Concern – USDA Forest Service	State of Utah sensitive Species List (1998)
Canada Goose (RMP)	X													
Canvasback	X													
Caspian Tern				X				X						X
Cattle Egret								X						
Cinnamon Teal	X													
Clarke's Grebe				X										
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse													X	
Common Goldeneye								X						
Common Grackle								X						
Common Loon								X						
Common Snipe			X											
Common Tern				X										
Common Yellowthroat														X
Cooper's Hawk					X									
Cordilleran Flycatcher							X							
Costa's Hummingbird									X					
Crissal Thrasher									X					X
Eared Grebe					X			X						
Ferruginous Hawk		X			X	X			X	X	X			
Flammulated Owl						X	X	X					X	
Forster's Tern								X						
Fox Sparrow						X								
Franklin's Gull				X	X			X		X				
Gadwall	X													
Gambel's Quail		X												
Golden Eagle									X					
Grace's Warbler						X	X							
Grasshopper Sparrow										X				X
Gray Flycatcher					X	X	X							
Gray Vireo		X				X	X	X	X					
Great Gray Owl								X					X	
Greater Yellowlegs			X											
Green-winged Teal	X													

**COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN UTAH**

<b>Species</b>	North American Waterfowl Mgmt Plan (NAWMP) and the IWJV	Partners in Flight Utah Avian Conservation Strategy (UTACS)	US Shorebird Conservation Plan and Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Great Basin Ecoregional Conservation Blueprint (TNC)	Utah High Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Colorado Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Utah / Wyoming Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Mojave Desert Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Wyoming Basins Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Species of Concern – USDA Forest Service	State of Utah sensitive Species List (1998)
Harlequin Duck								X						
Horned Grebe								X						
Juniper Titmouse					X	X	X							
Killdeer			X											
Lark Bunting								X						
Lawrence's Goldfinch									X					
Least Bittern					X				X					
Least Sandpiper			X											
Le Conte's Thrasher									X					
Lesser Goldfinch								X						
Lesser Scaup	X													
Lesser Snow Goose	X													
Lewis's Woodpecker		X			X	X	X	X						X
Loggerhead Shrike					X	X	X		X	X				
Long-billed Curlew		X	X		X	X		X						X
Long-billed Dowitcher			X											
Long-eared Owl									X					
Lucy's Warbler		X				X								
MacGillivray's Warbler						X	X							
Mallard	X													
Marbled Godwit			X											
Mexican Spotted Owl						X	X		X					
Mountain Plover		X	X					X			X	X		X
Northern Goshawk					X	X	X	X		X			X	X
Northern Harrier					X				X					
Northern Pintail	X													
Northern Pygmy Owl								X						
Northern Shoveler	X													
Olive-sided Flycatcher						X	X							
Osprey								X						X
Peregrine Falcon					X	X		X	X	X	X		X	
Phainopepla									X					
Pinyon Jay					X	X	X	X						

**COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN UTAH**

<b>Species</b>	North American Waterfowl Mgmt Plan (NAWMP) and the IWJV	Partners in Flight Utah Avian Conservation Strategy (UTACS)	US Shorebird Conservation Plan and Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Great Basin Ecoregional Conservation Blueprint (TNC)	Utah High Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Colorado Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Utah / Wyoming Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Mojave Desert Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Wyoming Basins Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Species of Concern – USDA Forest Service	State of Utah sensitive Species List (1998)
Prairie Falcon					X									
Purple Martin						X	X							
Pygmy Nuthatch						X	X							
Redhead	X				X									
Red-naped Sapsucker						X	X							
Red-necked Phalarope			X											
Ring-necked Duck	X													
Ruddy Duck	X													
Sage Grouse		X			X	X	X			X	X			X
Sage Sparrow		X			X	X	X	X		X				
Sage Thrasher					X	X	X							
Sandhill Crane					X	X		X						
Saw-whet Owl						X								
Scott's Oriole									X					
Semipalmated Sandpiper			X											
Sharp-tailed Grouse		X				X		X						X
Short-eared Owl									X					X
Snowy Egret				X				X		X				
Snowy Plover			X		X			X						
Solitary Sandpiper			X											
Southwest Willow Flycatcher					X	X			X			X		
Spotted Sandpiper			X											
Summer Tanager									X					
Swainson's Hawk					X	X								X
Three-toed Woodpecker		X				X		X					X	X
Tri-colored Blackbird									X					
Trumpeter Swan	X							X		X				
Tundra Swan	X													
Upland Sandpiper			X											
Vermilion Flycatcher									X					
Virginia's Warbler		X			X	X		X			X			
Western Bluebird							X							
Western Grebe				X				X						



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COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN UTAH

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Species	North American Waterfowl Mgmt Plan (NAWMP) and the IWJV	Partners in Flight Utah Avian Conservation Strategy (UTACS)	US Shorebird Conservation Plan and Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan	Great Basin Ecoregional Conservation Blueprint (TNC)	Utah High Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Colorado Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Utah / Wyoming Rocky Mountains Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Mojave Desert Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Columbia Plateau Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Wyoming Basins Ecoregional Conservation Plan (TNC)	Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)	Species of Concern – USDA Forest Service	State of Utah sensitive Species List (1998)
Western Sandpiper			X											
Western Screech Owl								X						
Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo									X					
White-faced Ibis				X	X			X						
White-winged Crossbill								X						
Whooping Crane								X			X			
Willet			X											
Williamson's Sapsucker						X	X							X
Willow Flycatcher						X	X							
Wilson's Phalarope			X		X									
Wood Duck	X													
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		X			X	X						X		
Yellow-breasted Chat					X	X			X					
Yellow Warbler									X					

**APPENDIX C – PRIMARY AND SECONDARY BREEDING HABITAT OF PRIORITY BIRDS SPECIES IN UTAH  
(PARTNERS IN FLIGHT)**

Species	Lowland Riparian	Mountain Riparian	Wetlands and Associated Uplands	Shrub-Steppe	Wet Meadow	Playa	Low Desert Scrub	High Desert Scrub	Mixed Conifer	Pinyon / Juniper	Sub-Alpine Conifer	Aspen	Mountain Shrub	Water	Agriculture
Abert's Towhee	X, XX														
American Avocet			X												
American Dipper		X													
American White Pelican														X	
Bald Eagle	X														
Bells' Vireo	X, XX														
Black Swift	X														
Black-necked Stilt			X												
Black-throated Gray Warbler	XX									X					
Bobolink					X										XX
Brewer's Sparrow								X							
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	X	X													
Ferruginous Hawk							XX	X							
Gambel's Quail	XX						X								
Gray Vireo								XX		X					
Lewis' Woodpecker	X														
Lucy's Warbler	X, XX														
Long-billed Curlew			X												XX
Mountain Plover								X, XX							
Sage Grouse				X											
Sage Sparrow				XX				X							
Sharp-tailed Grouse				X											
Three-toed Woodpecker											X				
Virginia's Warbler										XX					
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	X														XX

X – Primary Breeding Habitat

XX – Secondary Breeding Habitat

Source: Utah Partners in Flight – Avian Conservation Strategy (UTACS) (1999)

## **Appendix D – Bird Habitat Conservation Areas for Utah - Write Ups**

### **Northern Region**

#### **BHCA 1: Dove Creek**

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**County:** Box Elder

**Location:** West of Highway 30, east of Grouse Creek Mountain divide, south of Dove Creek Basin and north of Bovine Mountain.

**Priority Habitat Type:** Shrub-Steppe, Wet Meadow

**Importance to Birds:**

- Most important aggregation of Sage grouse leks in Northwest Utah
- Area being considered for an IBA

**Priority Birds:**

Sage Grouse, Brewers Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands
- Agricultural practices are threatening shrub-steppe complexes especially sage brush
- Complex has an elevational variation that is conducive to a mixture of priority habitats

#### **BHCA 2: Blue Creek Valley**

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**County:** Box Elder

**Location:** West of I-15 to Idaho Stateline except Portage Valley and east of I-84 to Snowville then north to Idaho Stateline to include Blue Creek and Whites Valleys

**Priority Habitat Types:** Shrubsteppe

**Importance to Birds:**

- All of part of 2 DWR Essential Wildlife lands
- An area of high species delivery
- The most significant breeding habitat for Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse
- Important Sage Grouse habitat

**Priority to Birds:**

- PIF Plan species, Sage Grouse, Long-billed Curlew, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Brewer's Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, Grasshopper Sparrow, Sage Sparrow

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands

- There are opportunities in the area for CRP, conservation easement, and deed purchase
- This BHCA is rich with conservation partners

### **BHCA 3: Great Salt Lake**

**County:** Box Elder, Weber, Tooele, Salt Lake, Davis

**Location:** West of I-15 except, Blue Creek Valley area to Idaho Stateline, Bear River to Cutler Narrows and foothills of Wellsville Mountain, all the lake east of west shore of Gunnison and Gilbert Bays (GSL) to I-80

**Priority Habitat Types:** Lowland Riparian, Wetlands and Associated Uplands, Shrub-Steppe, and Playa

**Importance to Birds:**

- All or parts of 10 DWR Essential Wildlife lands
- Four IBAs
- Nine DWR WMAs
- The Bear River National Wildlife Refuge
- Two BLM Important Wetlands Habitat Areas (Salt Wells and Public Shooting Grounds extension)
- Several protected areas including mitigation banks, an Audubon preserve, three state parks and a major TNC property
- Several areas of high species diversity
- Several colony nest sites including Gunnison and Hat Islands
- The Bear River and associated riparian habitat from Cutler Dam to GSL
- The second largest molt migration site for Eared grebe in North America
- Largest concentration of breeding California gulls in the world
- Largest staging population of Wilson's phalaropes in the World
- The Ogden/ Weber River associated riparian habitats
- Bald eagle forage and roost sites
- Three of the most important riverine delta complexes for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds
- Some of the most important agricultural foraging sites for Whit-faced ibis and associated species in the West
- Critical saline lake shoreline habitat and open water complexes that foster robust populations of halophiles

**Priority Birds:**

- All 18 species of waterfowl listed as priority in Utah All-Bird Habitat Conservation Plan (UABHCP)
- PIF Plan species; Lewis' woodpecker, American avocet, Sage grouse, American White Pelican, Long-billed curlew, Sharp-tailed grouse, Brewer's sparrow, Black-necked stilt, Ferruginous hawk, Grasshopper sparrow, Sage sparrow
- Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan species; 17 of the 20 species
- Intermountain West Regional Waterbird Plan species; 10 of the 11 species

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands
- Some of the most important GSL wetlands in private ownership are in this BHCA
- Has some of the most important uplands and agricultural lands associated with GSL wetlands
- Water use issues are key to long-term wetland sustainability
- Ag land conversion to urban and industrial use is an impending threat
- There are opportunities in the area for CRP, conservation easement, and deed purchase
- High urbanization threat to some of the most important uplands and agricultural lands associated with GSL wetlands especially in Davis and Salt Lake Counties
- Land use planning is critical to the preservation of wetlands and upland buffers
- This BHCA is rich with conservation partners but conservation actions are comparatively expensive

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#### **BHCA 4: Cache Valley**

**County:** Cache, Box Elder

**Location:** East of I-15 from Willard exit to and along Bear River and Hwy. 23 to Idaho state line, along state line to Hwy. 89, West of Hwy. 89 and Hwy. 165 to and up Porcupine Canyon to Reservoir then west along USFS boundary to Willard Peak and I-15.

**Priority Habitat Types:** Lowland Riparian, Wetlands and Associated Uplands, Playa, and Mountain Riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- Contains the Cutler Marsh the largest and most important wetland on the upper Bear River
- A DWR Essential Wildlife lands area
- Three IBAs
- Three DWR WMA
- Several areas of high species diversity
- Several Great blue heron colony nest sites
- White-faced ibis colonial nest sites
- Bobolink breeding site
- Raptor migration corridor
- Bald eagle forage and roost sites
- Important agricultural foraging sites for White-faced ibis and associated species
- Important waterfowl production wetland complex

**Priority Birds:**

- sixteen species of waterfowl listed as priority in Utah All-Bird Habitat Conservation Plan (UABHCP)
- PIF Plan species; Lewis' woodpecker, American avocet, American White Pelican, Bobolink, Virginia's warbler, Black swift, Broad-tailed hummingbird, Long-billed curlew, Sharp-tailed grouse, Brewer's sparrow, Black-necked stilt, Grasshopper sparrow, Sage sparrow
- Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan species; 13 of the 20 species
- Intermountain West Regional Waterbird Plan species; all 11 species

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands
- Agricultural practices are threatening shrub-steppe complexes especially sage brush
- Complex has an elevation variation that is conducive to a mixture of priority habitats
- Opportunity to work with wetland protection through Farm Bill and other conservation partners
- Urbanization of valley floor and foothills is accelerating

**BHCA 5: Blacksmith Fork**

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**County:** Cache, Rich

**Location:** Blacksmith Fork Creek drainage basin

**Priority Habitat Types:** Mountain Riparian, Shrub-Steppe, and Wet Meadow

**Importance to Birds:**

- One DWR Essential Wildlife lands site
- One DWR WMA
- Hyrum State Park
- Several areas of high species diversity
- Important riparian habitats
- Bald eagle forage and roost sites
- Significant Goshawk nesting area
- Significant forest bird area

**Priority Birds:**

- Three species of waterfowl listed as priority in Utah All-Bird Habitat Conservation Plan (UABHCP)
- PIF Plan species; Lewis' woodpecker, Bobolink, Virginia's warbler, Black swift, Broad-tailed hummingbird, Sage grouse, Brewer's sparrow, Grasshopper sparrow, Sage sparrow, Ferruginous hawk, Three-toed woodpecker, and Spotted sandpiper

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands
- Agricultural practices are threatening shrub-steppe complexes especially sage brush
- Complex has an elevation variation that is conducive to a mixture of priority habitats
- Opportunity to work with priority habitat protection through Farm Bill and other conservation partners
- Opportunities to work with USFS and private landowners in the protection of forest and high elevation shrub-steppe birds.

## **BHCA 6: North Rich**

**County:** Rich

**Location:** South from South Eden and Rabbit Creek Canyons, west of Utah/ Wyoming state line, north of Hwy. 39 and east of USFS boundary to Meadowville (including Round Valley), then to Bear Lake shore and east and west to South Eden Canyon.

**Priority Habitat Types:** Mountain Riparian, Shrub-Steppe, and Wet Meadow, Lowland Riparian

### **Importance to Birds:**

- Two DWR Essential Wildlife lands sites
- One IBA
- Several areas of high species diversity
- Important riparian habitats, including upper Bear River, Otter Creek, Big Creek and Birch Creek
- Lake Town, Round Valley, and Woodruff Wetlands and associated wet meadows
- Bald eagle forage and roost sites
- Significant sage grouse breeding and wintering habitats
- Important Bobolink breeding site
- High density raptor breeding area that includes Ferruginous hawk

### **Priority Birds:**

- Fifteen species of waterfowl listed as priority in Utah All-Bird Habitat Conservation Plan (UABHCP)
- PIF Plan species; Lewis' woodpecker, American avocet, American White Pelican, Long-billed curlew, Black-necked stilt, Bobolink, Virginia's warbler, Black swift, Broad-tailed hummingbird, Sage grouse, Brewer's sparrow, Grasshopper sparrow, Sage sparrow, Ferruginous hawk, Three-toed woodpecker, and Spotted sandpiper
- Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan species; 10 of the 20 species
- Intermountain West Regional Waterbird Plan species; all 10 species

### **Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands
- Agricultural practices are threatening shrub-steppe complexes especially sage brush, wet meadows, and riparian habitats
- Some of the most extensive wet meadow habitats in the state
- Opportunity to work with wetland protection through Farm Bill and other conservation partners

- Urbanization of valley floor and foothills is accelerating

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### **BHCA 7: South Rich**

**County:** Rich

**Location:** Woodruff on State Highway 16 to Wyoming boarder along the state line to I-80 west Rich/ Summit County line then North and West along the Rich/ Morgan County line to State Highway 39 to Woodruff.

**Priority Habitat Types:** Mountain Riparian, Shrub-Steppe, and Wet Meadow, Lowland Riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- One DWR Essential Wildlife lands site
- Two IBAs
- Several areas of high species diversity
- Important riparian habitats
- Extensive wetlands and wet meadows
- Bald eagle forage and roost sites
- Significant sage grouse breeding and wintering habitats
- Important colonial nesting colony
- High density raptor breeding area that includes Ferruginous hawk
- Significant area held by one landowner and managed for it's wildlife and rangeland values
- UABHCP priority habitats in the area; Lowland Riparian, Mountain Riparian, and Mountain Shrub, Shrub-Steppe, Wetlands and Associated Uplands Wet Meadow, and Agriculture (Rangeland)

**Priority Birds:**

- Fifteen species of waterfowl listed as priority in Utah All-Bird Habitat Conservation Plan (UABHCP)
- PIF Plan species; Lewis' woodpecker, American avocet, American White Pelican, Long-billed curlew, Black-necked stilt, Bobolink, Virginia's warbler, Black swift, Broad-tailed hummingbird, Sage grouse, Brewer's sparrow, Grasshopper sparrow, Sage sparrow, Ferruginous hawk, Three-toed woodpecker, and Spotted sandpiper
- Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan species; 10 of the 20 species
- Intermountain West Regional Waterbird Plan species; all 10 species



**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands
- Agricultural practices are threatening shrub-steppe complexes especially sage brush, wet meadows, and riparian habitats
- Some cases of excellent rangeland management
- Some of the most extensive wet meadow habitats in the state
- Opportunity to work with wetland protection through Farm Bill and other conservation partners

**BHCA 8: Ogden / Weber River**

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**County:** Weber, Morgan

**Location:** Pineview, East Canyon, and Weber River Complexes

- **Priority Habitat Types:** Lowland Riparian, Mountain Riparian, Wetlands, Wet Meadow

**Importance to Birds:**

- Heart of two of the primary drainage systems to the GSL (Weber/ Ogden)
- Significant riparian corridors with cottonwood galleries
- Part of two DWR Essential Wildlife lands sites
- Four DWR WMAs and several conservation easements
- Several areas of high species diversity
- Bald eagle forage and roost sites
- Significant forest bird area
- Significant wet meadow and mountain shrub habitat
- Important Flammulated owl, Bobolink nest sites
- Riparian Great Blue Heron Colonies

**Priority Birds:**

- Five species of waterfowl listed as priority in Utah All-Bird Habitat Conservation Plan (UABHCP)
- PIF Plan species; Lewis' woodpecker, Bobolink, Virginia's warbler, Broad-tailed hummingbird, Sharp-tailed grouse
- Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan species; four of the 20 species
- Intermountain West Regional Waterbird Plan species; three species

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands (Morgan highest proportion of private land holdings in state)
- Agricultural practices are threatening shrub-steppe complexes especially sage brush, wet meadows, and riparian habitats
- A relatively intact major riparian complex (Morgan, County Weber River portion)
- Extensive wet meadow habitats

- Opportunity to work with wetland protection through Farm Bill and other conservation partners

## **Northeastern Region**

### **BCHA 21: Duchesne River**

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**County:** Duchesne and Uintah

**Location:** From the confluence of Rock Creek (including 2 miles of Rock Creek) near Highway 35, downstream to the confluence with the Green River (Lower portion near Green River connects to the Green River BHCA).

**Priority Habitat Types:** Lowland Riparian

**Priority Habitat Types:**

- Lowland Riparian
- Wet Meadow
- Wetland and associated uplands
- Scattered upland shrubsteppe

**Importance to Birds:**

- Important complex of wetland, wet meadow and riparian habitats used by breeding, migrating and wintering birds
- Important connecting habitat/stepping stone between the Green River and the Uinta and Wasatch mountain ranges

**Priority Birds:** Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Bobolink, American White Pelican

- Many species of waterfowl and waterbirds
- Wide variety of riparian-dependent landbird species
- Priority bird species including 17 species of UABHCP waterfowl, 14 Utah Partners in Flight Priority Species, 15 Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan species, and 9 Intermountain West Regional Waterbird Plan species.

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Primarily private lands with scattered reservation and public lands
- Agricultural practices, including grazing, have altered and are continuing to threaten riparian, wet meadow, and wetland complexes
- Nonnative plant invasion, particularly Russian Olive are altering native habitats
- Opportunities for high species diversity management working with private land owners and tribes as well as federal and state agencies
- Opportunities in the area for CRP, conservation easement, and deed purchase

## **BCHA 22: Red Mountain**

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**County:** Uintah

**Location:** north of Vernal, from the north end of Steinaker Reservoir to Red Mountain and from Highway 191 west to about the Taylor Mountain Road

**Priority Habitat Types:** Lowland Riparian, Shrubsteppe, pinyon-juniper

**Importance to Birds:** This area is notable for the diversity of habitats it encompasses, from greasewood and sagebrush at the southeast corner to ponderosa pine on top of Red Mountain. It supports several priority species that breed in sagebrush, high desert scrub, pinyon-juniper or lowland riparian habitats. Many other species use it during migration (especially the small stands of hardwoods in the canyon bottoms or on the north end of Steinaker Reservoir). The riparian areas in the bottoms of narrow canyons off Red Mountain boost the overall diversity of the bird communities considerably. There is also a small sage grouse lek near the northwest corner of the area, and a peregrine eyrie in one of the canyons. Bald eagles occur near the reservoir in winter months.

**Priority birds:** Cooper's hawk, Swainson's hawk, bald eagle (fall/winter only), peregrine falcon, pinyon jay, broad-tailed hummingbird, red-naped sapsucker, willow flycatcher, juniper titmouse, Virginia's warbler, yellow-breasted chat, black-throated gray warbler, Brewer's sparrow, sage grouse.

**Opportunities, threats, biodiversity:** Land ownership is a mixture of state park, BLM, Forest Service and private. The BLM has identified its portion as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The Forest Service does not have any special management objectives for its portion; however, the Forest Plan is due to be revised beginning in 2004 and it may be possible to set up management objectives that are consistent with the BLM's ACEC designation.

Grazing and dispersed recreation, especially OHV use, are impacting vegetation composition and condition. Cheatgrass is widespread. Riparian areas in the box canyons are hit hard by both livestock and recreationists, but some that are protected by topography (i.e. difficult to reach with motorized vehicles) are still well vegetated and could be maintained.

## **BHCA 23: Diamond Mountain**

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**County:** Uintah

**Location:** North and East of Vernal. From US-191 east to Colorado border and from the Green River (Brown's Park area) south to the Green River at Island Park. South along Green River to Brush Creek, northwest along Brush Creek to US-191.

**Priority Habitat Types:**

- Sagebrush steppe
- Wet meadow
- Scattered mountain shrub

**Importance to Birds:**

- Largest concentration of Greater sage-grouse in northeastern Utah (8-10 active leks each year).
- Major sage-grouse wintering area.
- Major sage-grouse nesting/brooding area.
- Important wintering area for raptors (bald eagle, golden eagle, Rough-legged hawk).
- Small wetland, wet meadow habitats occur within the sagebrush habitat and are critical to numerous species.
- Three reservoirs (Matt Warner, Crouse, and Calder) provide nesting for waterfowl and rest areas for American white pelicans.
- At least one peregrine nest on mountain and several prairie falcon nests.

**Priority Birds:** Greater sage-grouse, sage sparrow, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, ferruginous hawk, bald eagle (fall/winter), Brewer's sparrow, long-billed curlew, burrowing owl, black rosy-finch, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (extirpated species but reintroduction possible)

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of public (USFS, BLM, SITLA) and private lands.
- Sagebrush removal for agriculture and livestock production. Large dryland wheat farms on mountain.
- Opportunities to alter agricultural practices (e.g. CRP, retire grazing) to enhance priority habitats
- Grazing is impacting vegetation composition and condition.
- Opportunity to reintroduce Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.

**BHCA 24: Blue Mountain**

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**County:** Uintah

**Location:** East of Vernal, south and east of the Green River from Echo Park (Colorado border) to Jensen then east on US-40 to Colorado border.

**Priority Habitat Types:**

- Sagebrush steppe
- Wet meadow
- Scattered mountain shrub

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large concentration of Greater sage-grouse in northeastern Utah (4-5 active leks each year).
- Major sage-grouse wintering area.
- Major sage-grouse nesting/brooding area.
- Small wetland, wet meadow habitats occur within the sagebrush habitat and are critical to numerous species.
- Several peregrine nests located in side canyons on margins of Blue Mountain.

**Priority Birds:** Greater sage-grouse, sage sparrow, peregrine falcon, ferruginous hawk, Brewer's sparrow, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse (extirpated species but reintroduction possible), Mexican spotted owl (survey located two owls along Yampa River, no extensive surveys have been conducted in other suitable nesting areas yet).

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of public (USFS, NPS, BLM, SITLA) and private lands.
- Sagebrush removal for livestock production.
- Grazing is impacting vegetation composition and condition.
- Opportunity to reintroduce Columbian sharp-tailed grouse cooperatively with Colorado DOW.
- Opportunity to work cooperatively with Colorado on sage-grouse management.
- Pinyon-Juniper invasion occurring along margins of mountain.

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**BCHA 25: Upper Green River**

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**County:** Uintah

**Location:** From Dinosaur National Monument downstream to the confluence with Willow Creek. This area includes Pariette Wetlands, Ouray National Wildlife Refuge, Pelican Lake, and Stewart Lake Waterfowl Management Area.

**Priority Habitat Type:** Lowland Riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- Major waterbird and waterfowl breeding and migration area
- Major migration corridor for all migratory birds
- Largest contiguous area of Lowland Riparian habitat in Utah (confluence of Green, White and Duchesne Rivers)
- Pariette Wetlands is a unique marsh complex surrounded by arid desert with over 130 avian species recorded including 55 priority species; designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern by BLM
- Ouray National Wildlife Refuge and Pelican Lake represent a highly productive complex of wetlands and associated shrubsteppe habitats; a designated IBA site with wide variety of landbird species and significant populations of waterfowl, waterbirds and shorebirds (including 70 priority species).
- Stewart Lake is a productive waterfowl area which also supports several species of shorebirds and waterbirds
- Several areas of mature lowland riparian habitats with high species diversity

**Priority Birds:** Yellow-billed Cuckoo, American White Pelican, Lewis's Woodpecker, Mountain Plover

- Minimum of 75 priority bird species including 17 species of waterfowl listed as priority in Utah All-Bird Habitat Conservation Plan (UABHCP), 13 Utah Partners in Flight Priority Species, 13 Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan species, and 9 Intermountain West Regional Waterbird Plan species.

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of public, private and tribal lands
- Agricultural practices, including grazing, have altered and are continuing to threatening riparian, wet meadow, and wetland complexes
- Oil, gas and mineral development threatens priority habitats throughout the area
- Invasive plants, such as Russian olive and Russian knapweed are altering native habitats
- Selenium contamination is a threat in some wetlands
- Opportunities to manage large tracts of mature riparian forests for high species diversity on public, private and tribal lands
- Opportunities to utilize existing infrastructure and expertise in federal and state managed areas
- Match funding opportunities with federal and state agencies as well as oil and gas industry
- Opportunities in the area for CRP, conservation easement, and deed purchase
- Opportunity to work with other conservation programs such as Threatened and Endangered Fishes program
- Opportunities to alter agricultural practices (e.g. CRP, retire grazing) to enhance priority habitats

**BHCA 26: Pariette Wetlands**

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**County:** Uintah

**Location:** 25 miles south of Fort Duchesne

**Priority Habitat Types:** Wetland and associated uplands, wet meadow and scattered shrubsteppe

**Importance to Birds:**

- Pariette Wetlands is a unique marsh complex surrounded by many miles of arid desert, featuring freshwater ponds, alkali bulrush, diverse emergent vegetation, wet meadow types, isolated sage bottoms and desert scrub habitats.
- Pariette provides a resting area for migrating species, a wintering spot for a few species and summer breeding areas for many waterfowl, shorebird and neotropical species.
- Over 133 different avian species have been identified at Pariette over the last 30 years.
- Pariette has been designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern by the BLM and has special management prescriptions in place.

**Priority Birds:** Sage sparrow, mountain plover, yellow-billed cuckoo, yellow-breasted chat, loggerhead shrike, MacGillivray's warbler, olive-sided flycatcher, American white pelican, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, golden eagle, ferruginous hawk, Cooper's hawk, Swainson's hawk, Northern harrier, prairie falcon, burrowing owl, short-eared owl, cinnamon teal, mallard, lesser Scaup, redhead, gadwall, ruddy duck, northern pintail, northern Shoveler, ring-necked duck, Canada goose, green-winged teal, wood duck, American Wigeon, canvasback, tundra swan, blue-winged teal, black-necked stilt, long-billed curlew, American avocet, marbled godwit, long-billed Dowitcher, red-necked phalarope, willet, common snipe, killdeer, Wilson's phalarope, spotted sandpiper, semi-palmated sandpiper, Clark's grebe, California gull, snowy egret, western grebe, white-faced ibis, Franklin's gull, black-crowned night heron, greater Sandhill crane, Lewis' woodpecker.

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:** Pariette is currently being looked at for oil development at 40 acre spacing. The Myton Bench is under pressure for full development of secondary recovery of oil. This entails water-flood technology which requires 40 acre spacing which imposes a dramatic foot print on the landscape. The effects of habitat fragmentation on migrant/resident bird species in this area is unknown at this time but is expected to be dramatic. Opportunity to possibly retire grazing in some areas to improve habitat quality in riparian bottoms.

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**BHCA 38: Willow Creek**

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**County:** Uintah

**Location:** Uintah County

**Priority Habitat Types:** Lowland Riparian

**Importance to Birds:** Willow Creek is a very important riparian habitat in an otherwise arid environment. It provides a perennial water source for a diversity of bird and other wildlife species.

**Priority Birds:** List is attached. This list is based on UDWR surveys for Willow Creek, Willow Creek Wetland, and Main Canyon. Priority birds are marked by an asterisk.

In addition, the canyon habitat surrounding Willow Creek provides suitable nesting habitat for Mexican spotted owls, though no owls have been documented in the region since the 1950s.

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:** Threats include an increased interest in oil and gas development in the region, cattle grazing in some areas, and multiple land ownership patterns. The area provides exceptional biodiversity as Willow Creek is a perennial water source in an otherwise arid environment. The wetland and riparian habitat provides exceptional habitat for numerous bird species and opportunities exist to improve this riparian habitat in various locations. Colorado cutthroat trout are also scheduled to be reintroduced into Willow Creek in the near future.

**Willow Creek Bird Species:**

**Willow Creek North**

American robin	Blue-gray gnatcatcher	Brown-headed cowbird
Brewer's blackbird	Clark's nutcracker	Cliff swallow
*Common yellowthroat	Canyon wren	Lazuli bunting
Orange-crowned warbler	Rock wren	Spotted towhee
Say's phoebe	Song sparrow	Violet-green swallow
Warbling vireo	White-throated swift	Yellow-breasted chat
Yellow warbler		

**Willow Creek South**

American kestrel	American robin	Black-billed magpie
Black-chinned hummingbird	Blue-gray gnatcatcher	Brewer's blackbird
*Broad-tailed hummingbird	Black-throated gray warbler	Clark's nutcracker
*Common yellowthroat	Canyon wren	House wren
Lazuli bunting	Mourning dove	Spotted towhee
Song Sparrow	Stellar's jay	Violet-green swallow
*Virginia's warbler	Warbling vireo	White-throated swift
Yellow-breasted chat	Yellow warbler	

**Willow Creek Wetland**

American coot	American robin	Ash-throated flycatcher
Black-billed magpie	Blue-gray gnatcatcher	Brown-headed cowbird
Brewer's blackbird	*Brewer's sparrow	Canada goose
Chipping sparrow	Cliff swallow	*Cinnamon teal
Common raven	*Common yellowthroat	Great-blue heron
*Gadwall	*Green-winged teal	*Killdeer
Lark sparrow	*Mallard	Mourning dove
*Northern harrier	*Northern shoveler	Spotted towhee
Red-winged blackbird	Say's phoebe	Song sparrow
*Spotted sandpiper	Western kingbird	Western meadowlark
*Wilson's phalarope	*Yellow-breasted chat	Yellow-headed blackbird
Yellow warbler		

**Main Canyon** (adjacent to Bitter Creek)

American robin	Black-billed magpie	*Black-throated gray warbler
*Broad-tailed hummingbird	Brown creeper	Cassin's finch
Chipping sparrow	Clark's nutcracker	Dark-eyed junco
Green-tailed towhee	Hairy woodpecker	Hermit thrush
House wren	Lesser goldfinch	*MacGillivray's warbler
Mountain bluebird	Mountain chickadee	Orange-crowned warbler
Olive-sided flycatcher	Pine siskin	Pygmy nuthatch



Red-breasted nuthatch	Red-naped sapsucker	Red-shafted flicker
Red-tailed hawk	Ruby-crowned kinglet	Rufous-sided towhee
Solitary vireo	Stellar's jay	Turkey vulture
*Virginia's warbler	Violet-green swallow	Warbling vireo
Western tanager	White-breasted nuthatch	Wilson's warbler

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### **BHCA 39: Bitter Creek (and associated canyon habitat)**

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**County:** Uintah

**Location:** Range 23, 24, 25, 26 East, Townships 13, 14, 15, and 15 ½. Area east of McCook Ridge to the Colorado state line and from Cooper Canyon (side canyon off Bitter Creek) south to Overlook Ridge.

**Priority Habitat Types:** Lowland Riparian, Wetland and associated uplands

**Importance to Birds:** The marsh, wetland, and perennial stream of Bitter Creek provide exceptional habitat to numerous bird species, as well as other wildlife species, in the region. In addition, the area is relatively undisturbed and has little human impact for most of the year.

**Priority Birds:**

- The following list is based on UDWR surveys for Bitter Creek, Bitter Creek Marsh, and surrounding canyons in the area (Chipita, Zane, and West Tent Canyon) habitat.
- These surveys were conducted in 1996, 1997, and 1998.
- In addition, the canyon habitat surrounding Bitter Creek provides suitable nesting habitat for Mexican spotted owls, though no owls have been documented in the region since the 1950s.

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:** Threats include oil and gas development, multiple land ownership, and possibly cattle grazing. The area provides exceptional biodiversity as Bitter Creek is a perennial water source in an otherwise arid environment. The marsh, wetland, and riparian habitat provides exceptional habitat for numerous bird species. The area provides both crucial winter and summer range for mule deer and elk and McCook Ridge serves as an important migratory corridor for these species. The landscape remains very natural, with little human impact or development in the region. The Bitter Creek area has been nominated by the BLM (internal nomination) and the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (outside nomination) as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and an interdisciplinary team at the BLM has determined the area meets the criteria for an ACEC. Once designated, special management prescriptions will be implemented to ensure that the area is managed carefully to maintain the qualities that make the area unique and ecologically very important.

### **Bitter Creek ACEC proposal – Bird Species 1996, 1997, and 1998**

\* denotes species that are listed as priority bird species by the various organizations listed in the draft of the “Coordinated Implementation Plan for Bird Conservation in Utah.” Species are only listed once, if documented in Zane Canyon, then they were recorded within all the other areas if they were documented there as well – this is just a list of all the species documented in the entire area.

**Zane Canyon**

American kestrel	American robin	Blue-gray gnatcatcher	Brewer's blackbird
Chipping sparrow	Clark's nutcracker	Cliff swallow	*Common yellowthroat
Canyon wren	House Wren	Lazuli bunting	Mountain bluebird
Mourning dove	*Northern harrier	*Peregrine falcon	*Pinyon jay
Rock wren	Spotted towhee	Red-winged blackbird	Say's phoebe
Scrub jay	Song sparrow	Tree swallow	Violet-green swallow
White-throated swift			

**Tent Canyon** (only those species not documented in Zane Canyon)

Black-billed magpie	Yellow warbler	*Black-throated gray warbler	Golden eagle
Green-tailed towhee	Hermit thrush	Lesser goldfinch	MacGillivray's warbler
Pygmy nuthatch	Northern flicker	Solitary vireo	Stellar's jay
Western tanager	Black-chinned hummingbird		

**Chipita Canyon** (only those species not documented in Zane or Tent Canyons)

\*Brewer's sparrow  
 \* Broad-tailed hummingbird  
 Cassin's finch  
 Common raven  
 Mountain chickadee  
 Ruby crowned kinglet  
 Red-tailed hawk  
 Warbling vireo

**Bitter Creek South** (species not documented in above counts)

Common snipe  
 Western kingbird  
 Western meadowlark  
 \*Yellow-breasted chat

**Bitter Creek Marsh** (species not documented in above counts)

American coot	Brown-headed cowbird
*Cinnamon teal	*Green-winged teal
Mallard	Marsh wren
Pied-billed grebe	*Peregrine falcon

**1997 Bird Species not documented in 1998**

*Virginia's warbler (Zane Canyon)	White-breasted nuthatch (Chipita Canyon)
Blue grouse (Chipita Canyon)	Orange-crowned warbler (Bitter Creek Marsh)
Cooper's hawk (Chipita Canyon)	Pied-billed grebe (Bitter Creek Marsh)
Townsend's solitaire (Chipita Canyon)	Tree swallow (Bitter Creek South)

**1996 Bird Species not documented in 1997 or 1998**

Cordilleran flycatcher (Bitter Creek South)	Red-shafted flicker (Bitter Creek South)
Hairy woodpecker (Bitter Creek South)	Rufous sided towhee (Bitter Creek South)
Hermit thrush (Bitter Creek South)	Killdeer (Bitter Creek Marsh)
Red-breasted nuthatch (Bitter Creek South)	Bushtit (Bitter Creek Marsh)

**Southeast Region**

**BHCA 27: Summerhouse Spring**

**County:** Carbon

**Location:** South of Gordon Creek

**Priority Habitat Type:** Wetlands and Associated Uplands

**Importance to Birds:** Wetland

**Priority Birds:** Sage-grouse, Snipe

**Opportunities, Risk, Biodiversity:** NA

**BHCA 28: Upper Fish Creek**

**County:** Carbon, Sanpete, and Utah

**Location:** Creek west of Scofield Reservoir

**Priority Habitat Type:** Mountain Riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large density of willow-flycatchers
- Important riparian habitat

**Priority Birds:** Willow Flycatchers, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Warblers, Red-napped Sapsucker, Yellow-breasted Chat

**Opportunities, Risk, Biodiversity:**

- Fires
- Sheep Grazing

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**BHCA 33: The Pines**

**County:** Sevier

**Location:** North of Quitcupah Creek in Fishlake National Forest

**Priority Habitat Type:** Mixed Conifer and Mountain Riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- Important mountain riparian habitat
- Several areas of high species diversity

**Priority Birds:** Sage-grouse, Brewer's Sparrows, Mountain and Western Bluebirds, Prairie Falcon, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden Eagle, and Goshawk, Flammulated Owl

**Opportunities, Risk, Biodiversity:**

- Loss of surface water to mining

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**BHCA 34: San Rafael River bottoms (includes Fuller, Hambrick, and Frenchman bottoms)**

**County:** Emery

**Location:** Area where Feron Creek and San Rafael River come together

**Priority Habitat Type:** Wetlands and Associated Uplands

**Importance to Birds:**

- Important riparian area
- Population of Cottonwoods

**Priority Birds:** Peregrines, Flickers

**Opportunities, Risk, Biodiversity:**

- Tamarisk Removal

### **BHCA 35: Desert Lake**

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**County:** Emery

**Location:** Southeast of Elmo

**Priority Habitat Type:** Wetlands and Associated Uplands

**Importance to Birds:**

- Important wetland and water source

**Priority Birds:** Shorebirds, Waterfowl, Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Peregrines and Bald Eagles

**Opportunities, Risk, Biodiversity:**

- Irrigation – loss of water

### **BHCA 36: Emma Park**

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**County:** Carbon

**Location:** North of Helper, east and west of Hwy 191

**Priority Habitat Type:** Wet Meadow

**Importance to Birds:**

- Important wet meadows

**Priority Birds:** Snipe, Curlew, shorebirds, Sage-grouse

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Grazing
- Erosion
- Mix of private and public lands

### **BHCA 37: Green River**

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**County:** Uintah, Carbon, Emery, Grand, Wayne, San Juan

**Location:** From Ouray to the fork at the Colorado River

**Priority Habitat Type:** Lowland Riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- Important riparian habitats
- Several areas of high species diversity
- Bald eagle forage and roost sites
- Habitat for wintering waterfowl

**Priority Birds:** Virginia and Lucy's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Bald Eagle, Peregrines, Cooper's Hawk, and Mexican Spotted Owl

- Most waterfowl species listed on the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the Intermountain West Joint Venture

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of public, private, and Indian Reservation lands
- Water rights/quality
- Invasion of exotic plant species
- Fire
- Grazing

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**BHCA 40: Cottonwood and Willow Creeks**

**County:** Grand

**Location:** In Book Cliffs South of East Tavaputs Plateau

**Priority Habitat Type:** Lowland Riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large riparian areas
- Great diversity of bird species
- Lots of important riparian vegetation

**Priority Birds:** Cordilleran and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Mexican Spotted Owl, Lucy's and Virginia's Warbler, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Goshawk, Fox Sparrow, Red-napped Sapsuckers, and Western Bluebirds

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Fire
- State and SITLA owned land
- Grazing
- Now an open area

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**BHCA 41: Cisco Desert**

**County:** Grand

**Location:** North and South of Interstate 70 from Floy to the Colorado border.

**Priority Habitat Type:** Low Desert Shrub

**Importance to Birds:**

- Important desert habitat
- Eagles forage and roost sites

- Contains Nash Wash WMA

**Priority Birds:** Golden and Bald Eagles, Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Long-billed curlew

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Grazing
- Extreme soil loss by wind
- Lots of oil & gas activity

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**BHCA 42: Colorado & Delores River**

**County:** Grand, Garfield, and San Juan

**Location:** From Colorado border to the Junction of Green River and then from Gypsum Canyon to Hite Crossing at Lake Powell

**Priority Habitat Type:** Lowland Riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- Important riparian habitats
- Several areas of high species diversity
- Bald eagle forage and roost sites
- Habitat for wintering waterfowl
- Potential Mexican spotted owl habitat

**Priority Birds:** Virginia and Lucy's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Bald Eagle, Peregrines, and Mexican Spotted Owl

- Most waterfowl species listed on the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the Intermountain West Joint Venture

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Water rights/quality
- Invasion of exotic plant species
- Grazing
- Recreation
- Fire

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**BHCA 51: Henry Mountains**

**County:** Garfield and Wayne

**Location:** North of Mount Ellen on the Henry Mountains

**Priority Habitat Type:** Mountain Riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- One of the few riparian areas on that side of the Henry's

**Priority Birds:** Yellow-breasted Chat, Virginia's and Lucy's Warbler, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Cordilleran Flycatcher

**Opportunities, Risk, Biodiversity:**

- Fire

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**BHCA 52: Indian Creek and Fable Valley (includes Hart Canyon & North Cottonwood)**

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**County:** San Juan

**Location:** North of Abajo Mountain along Highway 211

**Priority Habitat Type:** Lowland Riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- Priority site for The Nature Conservancy
- Several areas of high species diversity
- Important riparian area
- Potential Mexican Spotted Owl habitat and within USFWS designated critical habitat for MSO
- High density of nesting raptors
- Monitoring site for neotropical birds

**Priority Birds:** Wintering Goshawk, Nesting Golden Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Southwestern Willow and Gray Flycatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Pinyon Jay, Western Bluebird

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Recreation
- Grazing
- Potential habitat restoration and studies
- Recreation Plan currently being worked on and grazing renewal to be completed soon.

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**BHCA 53: Hart Draw**

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**County:** San Juan

**Location:** West of Hwy 191, both North and South of and along Hwy 211

**Priority Habitat Type:** Shrub-Steppe

**Importance to Birds:**

- One of the largest sagebrush-steppe habitats in San Juan County
- Riparian canyon with springs

**Priority Birds:** Brewer's and Sage Sparrow and Sage Thrasher

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Grazing



- Mixture of private and public lands
- Potential habitat restoration work

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#### **BHCA 54: East Canyon / Sage Flat**

**County:** San Juan

**Location:** East of Monticello to Colorado Border

**Priority Habitat Type:** Shrub-Steppe

**Importance to Birds:**

- Potential IBA area
- Only population of Gunnison Sage-grouse in Utah
- Significant shrub-steppe community

**Priority Birds:** Gunnison Sage-grouse, Sage and Brewer's Sparrows, Burrowing Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Prairie Falcon

**Opportunities, threats, biodiversity:**

- Mainly private land with small amount of public lands
- Conversion from sagebrush to croplands
- Grazing
- Plan completed for Sage grouse for possibilities for habitat manipulation projects, conservation easements, and leases.

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#### **BHCA 55: South Elk Ridge**

**County:** San Juan

**Location:** South Elk Ridge on Manti La Sal National Forest

**Priority Habitat Type:** Mixed Conifer

**Importance to Birds:**

- Area for Aspen regeneration
- Significant forest bird area

**Priority Birds:** Lewis Woodpeckers, Goshawk, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Flammulated Owl, Pygmy Nuthatch, Mexican Spotted Owl, Grace's Warbler

**Opportunities, threats, biodiversity:**

- Fire
- Grazing
- Some projects for aspen regeneration underway

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#### **BHCA 56: Montezuma Canyon**

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**County:** San Juan

**Location:** Watershed Southeast of Monticello

**Priority Habitat Type:** Lowland Riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large concentration of cottonwoods
- Several areas of high species diversity
- Important migration corridor for neotropical birds
- Monitoring site for neotropical birds

**Priority Birds:** Pinyon Jay, Yellow-breasted chat, Black-throated Gray Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler, Brewer's Sparrow, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Willow Flycatchers (possibly southwestern)

- One of the largest density of nesting Cooper's Hawk in Utah

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private, public, and reservation lands.
- Grazing on riparian areas
- Exclosures built and surveys already conducted
- Exotic species invasion, little recruitment of native riparian plant species.
- Possibilities for tamarisk removal and maintenance of riparian area.

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#### **BHCA 57: San Juan River**

**County:** San Juan

**Location:** Colorado border to Lake Powell

**Priority Habitat Type:** Lowland Riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- Important riparian habitats
- Several areas of high species diversity
- Bald eagle forage and roost sites
- Habitat for wintering waterfowl
- Potential Mexican Spotted Owl habitat
- **Priority Birds:** Virginia and Lucy's Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue Grosbeak, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Bald Eagle, Peregrines, Cooper's Hawk, and Mexican Spotted Owl
- Most waterfowl species listed on the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and the Intermountain West Joint Venture

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of public, private, and Indian Reservation lands

- Water rights/quality
- Invasion of exotic plant species
- Grazing
- Recreation
- Fire
- Weeds program starting projects

## **Southern Region**

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### **BHCA 31: Delta**

**County:** Millard

**Location:** Lynndyl and Leamington southwest to Clear Lake. Includes Clear Lake WMA, Gunnison Bend Reservoir, Delta Reservoir, Fool Creek reservoirs.

**Priority Habitat Type:** Wetland

**Importance to Birds:**

- Important lake, marsh, and wetland habitat
- Clear Lake, Gunnison Bend Reservoir, Fool Creek Reservoirs, Delta Reservoir are major spring/fall concentration area for waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds
- Gunnison Bend Reservoir is a major spring flyway stop for Lesser Snow Geese.

**Priority Birds:**

- 18 waterfowl species listed in the Intermountain West Joint Venture plan
- 17 shorebird species listed in the Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan
- 10 waterbird species listed in the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Water rights
- Livestock grazing management (Topaz Slough)

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### **BHCA 32: Pruess Lake**

**County:** Millard

**Location:** South of Garrison, east of Nevada state line, north of Mountain. Home Range, west of Burbank Hills

**Priority Habitat Type:** Wetlands

**Importance to Birds:**

- Important lake, marsh, and wetland habitat

**Priority Birds:**

- 16 waterfowl species listed in the Intermountain West Joint Venture plan
- 10 shorebird species listed in the Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan
- 8 waterbird species listed in the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Private land

Conservation easements

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**BHCA 43: Parker Mountain**

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**County:** Sevier, Piute, Wayne, Garfield

**Location:** West of Sevier Plateau, south of Koshareem Reservoir and Johnson Valley Reservoir, east of Thousand Lake Mountain and Aquarius Plateau, north of Bryce Canyon National Park. Includes Parker Mountain, Awapa Plateau, Grass Valley, Fish Lake, Otter Creek Reservoir, Fremont River, and Johns Valley.

**Priority Habitat Type:** Shrub-steppe

**Importance to Birds:**

- Largest aggregation of sage grouse leks in southern Utah
- Current nesting habitat for priority shrub-steppe birds
- Fish Lake, Otter Creek Reservoir, and Kooshareem Reservoir are important spring/fall concentration areas for waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds.
- Bicknell Bottoms has important waterfowl, marsh, and water bird habitat.
- Fremont River has important riparian habitat with high species diversity.

**Priority Birds:** Sage grouse, Ferruginous hawk, Sage sparrow, Brewer's sparrow

- 16 waterfowl species listed in the Intermountain West Joint Venture plan

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Land ownership pattern including a large block of SITLA land on Parker Mountain
- Livestock grazing management
- Sagebrush die-off in Grass Valley and potential for cheatgrass invasion
- Water rights and use
- Salt cedar and noxious weed problems
- Off-highway vehicles
- Land acquisition
- Conservation easements
- Riparian restoration

**BHCA 44: Panguitch Valley**

**County:** Garfield

**Location:** Panguitch Valley west of Paunsaugunt Plateau and Mount Dutton from Long Valley Junction north to Beaver County line and west to Buckskin Valley. Includes Panguitch Lake and Sevier River.

**Priority Habitat Type:** Shrub-steppe

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large expanse of shrub-steppe habitat
- Historic and existing sage grouse leks and year-round sage grouse habitat
- Current nesting habitat for priority shrub-steppe birds
- Panguitch Lake is a major spring/fall concentration area for waterfowl and waterbirds

**Priority Birds:** Sage grouse, Ferruginous hawk, Sage sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, Broad-tailed hummingbird

- 14 waterfowl species listed in the Intermountain West Joint Venture plan
- 8 waterbird species listed in the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Habitat fragmentation
- Sagebrush die-off
- Sagebrush restoration
- Land ownership pattern
- Land acquisition
- Conservation easements
- Livestock grazing management

#### **BHCA 45: Bald Hills**

**County:** Iron, Beaver

**Location:** West of Escalante Desert, north of Parowan, south of Mineral Range, east of Beaver and Parowan Valley. Includes Minersville Reservoir.

**Priority Habitat Type:** Shrub-steppe

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large expanse of shrub-steppe habitat
- Historic and existing sage grouse leks and year-round sage grouse habitat.
- Current nesting habitat for priority shrub-steppe birds
- Minersville Reservoir is a major spring/fall concentration area for waterfowl, waterbirds, and shorebirds.

**Priority Birds:** Sage grouse, Ferruginous hawk, Sage sparrow, Brewer's sparrow

- 16 waterfowl species listed in the Intermountain West Joint Venture plan
- 16 shorebird species listed in the Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan
- 10 waterbird species listed in the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Loss of sagebrush by grass seedings, wildfires and tebuthiuron treatments
- Livestock grazing management
- Loss of wet meadows
- Land ownership pattern
- Sagebrush and seeding restoration
- Conservation easements
- Land acquisition

#### **BHCA 46: Hamlin Valley**

**County:** Iron, Beaver

**Location:** East of Nevada state line, north of Modena Canyon, west of Pine Valley Wash, south of Mountain Home Range

**Priority Habitat Type:** Shrub-steppe

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large expanse of shrub-steppe habitat
- Historic and existing sage grouse leks and year-round sage grouse habitat.
- Current nesting habitat for priority shrub-steppe birds

**Priority Birds:** Sage grouse, Ferruginous hawk, Sage sparrow, Brewer's sparrow

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Sagebrush die-off, and potential cheatgrass invasion
- Sagebrush restoration
- Livestock grazing management

**BHCA 47: Beaver Dam Wash**

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**County:** Washington

**Location:** Motoqua south to Arizona state line. Includes Lytle Ranch.

**Priority Habitat Type:** Lowland riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

Important riparian habitat with high species diversity

**Priority Birds:** Gambel's quail, Lucy's warbler, Bell's vireo, Black-tailed gnatcatcher, Yellow-billed cuckoo

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Recreation
- Livestock grazing management
- Fences
- Recreation management
- Water rights acquisition

**BHCA 48: Virgin River**

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**County:** Washington, Kane

**Location:** Virgin River from Arizona state line northeast to Rockville, Santa Clara River north to Pine Valley, Leeds Creek, Ash Creek north to New Harmony, LaVerkin Creek north to Zion National Park, North Creek north to Kolob Reservoir, North Fork Virgin River north to Pink Cliffs, East Fork Virgin River east to Alton. Includes Gunlock Reservoir, Quail Creek Reservoir, Sand Hollow Reservoir, Kolob Reservoir.

**Priority Habitat Type:** Lowland riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- Important riparian habitat with high species diversity
- Quail Creek Reservoir, Sand Hollow Reservoir, Gunlock, and Kolob Reservoir are important fall/winter/spring concentration areas for waterfowl, water birds, and shorebirds.

**Priority Birds:** Abert's towhee, Lucy's warbler, Bell's vireo, Gray vireo, Gambel's quail, Yellow-billed cuckoo

- 18 waterfowl species listed in the Intermountain West Joint Venture plan
- 18 shorebird species listed in the Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan
- 11 waterbird species listed in the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Land development
- Livestock grazing management
- Recreation
- Land acquisition
- Water rights acquisition
- Recreation management
- Off-highway vehicle management
- Salt cedar control

**BHCA 49: Paria River**

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**County:** Kane, Garfield

**Location:** Paria River from Cannonville south to The Cockscomb

**Priority Habitat Type:** Lowland riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- Important riparian habitat with good species diversity

**Priority Birds:** Black-throated gray warbler, Virginia's warbler, Yellow-billed cuckoo

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Livestock grazing management
- Salt cedar control

**BHCA 50: Escalante River**

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**County:** Garfield, Kane

**Location:** Escalante River drainage east of Escalante Mountain, south of Boulder Top, downstream to Lake Powell.

**Priority Habitat Type:** Lowland riparian

**Importance to Birds:**

- Important riparian habitat with high species diversity

**Priority Birds:** Virginia's warbler, Black-throated gray warbler, Yellow-billed cuckoo, Broad-tailed hummingbird



**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Hiking
- Recreation
- Access management plan

**Central Regional (CRO)**

**BHCA 9: Rush Valley / Tooele Valley**

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**County:** Tooele

**Location: (Combination of 3 identified areas) Rush Lake** - Approximately 3 mi southwest of the town of Stockton west of State Route 36;

**Stockton West** - Approximately 8 mi west of the town of Stockton south of Tooele Army Depot and north of the town of Rush Valley;

**Tooele Valley** - South of Interstate Highway 15 between the towns of Erda and Grantsville and continuing south to Tooele Army Depot.

**Importance to Birds:**

- Open water with large marsh areas around perimeter
- Upland habitats adjacent to marsh areas
- Waterfowl, waterbird and shorebird nesting habitat
- Long-billed Curlew nesting areas
- Peregrine Falcon foraging during migration
- Large expanses of shrubsteppe habitat
- Large expanses of grazing pastures
- Seasonal marsh areas with adjacent upland habitats
- Shrubsteppe, waterbird, and shorebird nesting habitat

**Priority Birds:** Sage Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Cinnamon Teal, Mallard, Redhead, Gadwall, Northern pintail, Northern Shoveler, Canada goose, Long-billed Curlew, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt

- Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan Priority Species
- Intermountain West Regional Waterbird Plan Priority Species

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands
- Agricultural threats (croplands and grazing)
- Irrigation draw down threats during low water years
- Recreational use (camping, hiking, and ATV use)
- Area is part of Tooele County Special Area Management Plan

- Historically high-use nesting area for Ferruginous Hawk; historically high-use nesting area for raptors

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#### **BHCA 10: Skull Valley**

**County:** Tooele

**Location: (Combination of 3 identified areas)** Vernon **West-Northwest** -South and west of the town of Vernon between Dutch Creek and Government Creek drainages and extending north either side of Faust Creek west and east along State Route 36; **Davis Mountain South** - Approximately 17 mi west of the town of Vernon south of Davis Mountain and north of Simpson and Winter Springs, east of the southeastern most boundary of Dugway Proving Ground; **Skull Valley** - East of Dugway Proving Ground beginning to the south between Davis Mountain on the west and Lookout Pass on the east and extending north between Dugway Proving Ground on the west and the Onaqui Mountains on the east up to the southern boundary of Skull Valley Indian Reservation

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large expanses of shrubsteppe habitat
- Large expanses of grazing pastures
- Long-billed Curlew nesting in area
- Ferruginous Hawk nesting in area
- Burrowing Owl nesting in area

**Priority Birds:** Greater-Sage-grouse, Long-billed Curlew, Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Sage Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands
- Agricultural threats (croplands and grazing)
- Recreational activities (ATV use)
- Water use issues
- Adjacent to large tracts of tribal lands and DoD lands

### **BHCA 11: Horseshoe Springs**

**County:** Tooele

**Location:** Northern-most portions of Skull Valley between Cedar Mountains and Stansbury Mountains and north of Skull Valley Indian Reservation

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large expanses of shrubsteppe habitat
- Year-round water from open springs and seeps; some ponds/small water bodies
- Waterfowl nesting habitat
- Open water with large marsh areas around perimeter
- Upland habitats adjacent to marsh areas
- Large expanses of grazing pastures

**Priority Birds:** Sage Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Long-billed Curlew

- Numerous waterfowl species use area

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mostly public lands
- Agricultural threats (grazing)
- Recreational use

### **BHCA 12: Blue Lake**

**County:** Tooele

**Location:** Northwestern portion of the Utah Test and Training Area South Range south of Interstate Highway 80 and south-southeast of Wendover, Nevada/Utah. Area is totally contained within DoD lands

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large expanse of playa habitat with some adjacent shrublands
- Year-round water from underground springs and seeps
- Waterfowl hunting area
- Waterfowl nesting habitat
- Open water with large marsh areas around perimeter
- Upland habitats adjacent to marsh areas

**Priority Birds:** Sage Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Long-billed Curlew

- Numerous waterfowl species use area
- Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan Priority Species

- Intermountain West Regional Waterbird Plan Priority Species
- Seasonal use by wintering Bald Eagles

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Public lands
- Recreational use (waterfowl hunting; scuba-diving training area for local (SLC mostly) diving clubs; freshwater fishery (Largemouth Bass); target practice
- DoD in partnership with USFWS has conducted long-term bird monitoring (point counts) in the Blue Lake area
- Occasional threats from military training activities

**BHCA 13: Deep Creek Valley**

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**County:** Tooele

**Location:** Ibapah Valley south of White Sage Flat west and east of Deep Creek and extending south to the northern Goshute Indian Reservation boundary at the Juab County line.

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large expanses of shrubsteppe habitat
- Shrubsteppe bird nesting habitat
- Waterfowl nesting habitat

**Priority Birds:** Cinnamon Teal, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern pintail, Northern Shoveler, Canada goose, Greater Sage-grouse, Sage Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Long-billed Curlew

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands
- Agricultural threats (crops and grazing)
- Recreational use
- Multiple DWR projects currently underway with private landowners and agencies

#### **BHCA 14: Snake Valley**

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**County:** Juab and Millard

**Location:** southwest from Callao east of the Deep Creek Range and west of the Confusion Range and Granite Mountain south to Gandy.

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large expanses of shrubsteppe habitat
- Shrubsteppe bird nesting habitat
- Important marsh and wetland habitat
- Waterfowl nesting habitat

**Priority Birds:** Cinnamon Teal, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern pintail, Northern Shoveler, Canada goose, Greater Sage-grouse, Sage Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Ferruginous Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Long-billed Curlew, Wilson's snipe

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands
- Agricultural threats (crops and grazing)
- Water rights
- Recreational use
- Multiple DWR projects currently underway with private landowners and agencies
- Grazing management
- Conservation easements

#### **BHCA 15: Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge**

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**County:** Juab

**Location:** South and east of Fish Springs NWR extending to south of Fish Springs Range on the west and south of Thomas Range on the east; includes Fish Springs NWR

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large expanses of shrubsteppe habitat
- Shrubsteppe bird nesting habitat
- Shorebird and waterfowl nesting areas

**Priority Birds:** Ferruginous Hawk, Sage Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow

- Shorebird and waterbird priority species, including Snowy Plover
- Numerous waterfowl species

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mostly public lands
- Agricultural threats (grazing)
- Recreational use (hiking and ATV)
- Water use issues
- Long-term mist-net banding program conducted on Fish Springs NWR
- Numerous species occurrence records for Utah documented at Fish Springs NWR

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**BHCA 16: Utah Lake / Mona Lake / Tintic Valley**

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**County:** Utah and Juab Counties

**Location: (Combination of 2 identified areas) Utah Lake/Mona Lake** - Southernmost portions of Utah Lake with adjacent marshlands and uplands, Goshen Wetlands and Goshen Reservoir approximately 3-5 mi south-southwest of the town of Genola along State Route 141, both in Utah County.

Mona Reservoir is located north of the town of Mona west of Interstate Highway 15 and east of State Route 41 in Juab County

Tintic Valley - West-southwest of Tintic Junction between West and East Tintic Mountains and extending west of US Route 6 to Little Sahara Recreation Area.

**Importance to Birds:**

- Open water with large marsh areas around perimeter
- Upland habitats adjacent to marsh areas
- Waterfowl, waterbird and shorebird nesting habitat
- Long-billed Curlew nesting in adjacent fields
- Peregrine Falcon foraging during migration
- Large expanses of shrubsteppe habitat

**Priority Birds:** Greater Sage-grouse, Sage Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Cinnamon Teal, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern pintail, Northern Shoveler, Canada goose, Long-billed Curlew, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt

- Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan Priority Species
- Intermountain West Regional Waterbird Plan Priority Species

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands
- Agricultural threats (croplands and grazing)
- Recreational use (camping, fishing, ATV use)
- Utah Lake Wildlife Preserve
- Water use issues for lake systems

### **BHCA 17: Bridal Veil Falls/Stewarts Falls / Aspen Grove Areas**

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**County:** Utah

**Location:** Bridal Veil Falls is located in Provo Canyon along US Route 189 approximately 5 ½ mi east-northeast of Orem, Utah; Stewarts Falls is located approximately 4 mi north of US Route 189 and west of State Route 92 and northwest of Sundance Resort; Aspen Grove area is located approximately 6 mi north of US Route 189 along State Route 92

**Importance to Birds:**

- Several miles of riparian habitat along streams below waterfalls
- Important Black Swift nesting locations

**Priority Birds:** Black Swift, Broad-tailed Hummingbird (foraging habitat)

- Utah Avian Conservation Strategy Mountain Riparian Habitat Species

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands; waterfalls mostly on public lands, access mostly through private lands
- Grazing under USFS allotment
- Recreational use (mostly camping, fishing, and considerable non-winter seasonal hiking; winter snow skiing)
- Seasonal and permanent residential development in the Sundance area
- Development in Provo Canyon
- Increasing vehicular traffic in Provo Canyon and along Alpine Loop road

### **BHCA 18: Upper Heber Valley / Jordanelle-Upper Provo River**

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**County:** Wasatch

**Location:** North of Heber City and east of Highway 40/189, south and east of Jordanelle Reservoir, south of the Wasatch County line

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large expanse of shrubsteppe habitat
- Historic and existing Greater Sage-grouse leks
- Current nesting locations for important grassland and other shrubsteppe birds
- Long-term UDWR riparian bird monitoring program below Jordanelle Dam

**Priority Birds:** Greater Sage-grouse, Bobolink, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Brewer' Sparrow, Sage Sparrow

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands
- Some agricultural threats
- Urban development for Jordanelle expansion

### **BHCA 19: Upper and Lower Hobble Creek Drainage**

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**County:** Utah

**Location:** East of Springville up Hobble Creek to the confluence of the Right Fork and Left Fork drainages; east-northeast along the Right Fork to the junction with Dry Canyon, and north along the Left Fork to the junction with Berryport Canyon

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large expanse of riparian habitat
- Long-term monitoring site for neotropical migratory birds
- Important Lewis's Woodpecker nesting location
- Hobble Creek WMA (DWR)

**Priority Birds:** Lewis's Woodpecker, Cooper's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Gray Flycatcher

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Recreational activities (golf course) along lower Hobble Creek, numerous camp sites along upper Hobble Creek and in both forks, 2 designated Recreational Areas along Right Fork
- Urban development near recreation areas
- Water use issues
- Urbanization in Hobble Creek Canyon
- Complex has an elevation variation that is conducive to a mixture of priority habitats

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**BHCA 20: Strawberry Reservoir Watershed**

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**County:** Wasatch, Duchesne

**Location:** South and east of Strawberry Reservoir and west of the CRO boundary line, north of Willow Creek and south of Willow Creek to the CRO line, and west to the Uintah National Forest boundary

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large expanse of shrubsteppe habitat
- Historic and existing greater sage-grouse leks
- Current nesting locations for important shrubsteppe birds

**Priority Birds:** Greater Sage-grouse, Brewer's Sparrow, Sage Sparrow

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of Land Ownership
- Agricultural practices threatening shrubsteppe areas
- High-use recreational activities
- Water use issues
- Reclamation activity addressing past management practices



### **BHCA 29: Lower Nebo Creek Drainage**

**County:** Utah

**Location:** West of Highway 89 approximately 1 ¼ mi south of Birdseye; past the junction with Spencer Canyon drainage and continuing west to approximately 1 mi east of Page Fork drainage; also south Spencer Canyon to the confluence with Wheat Grass Creek.

**Importance to Birds:**

- Large expanse of riparian habitat
- Long-term monitoring site for neotropical migratory birds
- Important Lewis's Woodpecker nesting location

**Priority Birds:** Lewis's Woodpecker, Cooper's Hawk

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of public and private lands
- Fire recovery area along Nebo Creek within Lewis's Woodpecker nesting habitat
- Recreational activities (camping and fishing) along Nebo Creek and Page Fork; some vandalism in the past
- Water use issues
- Right-of-way litigation issues in the area
- Long-term UDWR Riparian Bird Monitoring station along Nebo Creek and Page Fork drainage
- Extensive livestock grazing
- Fire recovery area on lower Nebo Creek

### **BHCA 30: Sevier Bridge/Chicken Creek Reservoirs**

**County:** Juab

**Location:** Chicken Creek Reservoir is located approximately 25 miles south of Nephi and east of Interstate Highway 15; Sevier Bridge reservoir is located approximately 10 miles further south and east of Interstate Highway 15, approximately 2-½ mi south of Exit 202 along US Route 50

**Importance to Birds:**

- Open water with large marsh areas around perimeter
- Waterfowl, waterbird and shorebird nesting habitat
- Long-billed Curlew nesting in adjacent fields
- Peregrine Falcon foraging during migration

**Priority Birds:** Cinnamon Teal, Mallard, Gadwall, Northern pintail, Northern Shoveler, Canada goose, Peregrine Falcon, Long-billed Curlew, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt

- Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan Priority Species:
- Intermountain West Regional Waterbird Plan Priority Species

**Opportunities, Threats, Biodiversity:**

- Mixture of private and public lands around Sevier Bridge Reservoir; mostly private around Chicken Creek Reservoir
- Agricultural threats (grazing)
- Recreational use (mostly camping and fishing)
- Water issues (portions of Sevier Bridge Reservoir seasonally dry)